





THE MESSAGE.

Second Inaugural Message of  
 Gov. Crosswell.

Satisfactory Condition of the  
 State Institutions and Fi-  
 nances.

General Prosperity, Growth and  
 Development of Michigan.

The Executive Recommenda-  
 tions in Detail.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Rep-  
 resentatives:

You assemble under circumstances  
 of peculiar interest. Yours is the first  
 Legislature to meet within the walls  
 of this new Capitol. The erection and  
 completion of this building is not  
 without significance. It marks the  
 transformation which a few years  
 have wrought in our social and political  
 condition. It bespeaks the growth of  
 population, the increase of wealth, the  
 advancement of science and art, from  
 the time of the rude cabin of the pio-  
 neer to the completion of this impos-  
 ing structure, costing, all furnished,  
 \$1,500,000. As we devote it to the use  
 for which it was constructed, let us  
 hope that all the counsels and delib-  
 erations to be held here may conduce  
 to the general welfare, and be instru-  
 mental in promoting and perpetuating  
 the blessings of liberty and peace.

In the biennial period just passed  
 general health has prevailed through-  
 out our borders. The earth has pro-  
 duced bountifully and the harvests  
 have been abundant. We have grown  
 in the State within the past year more  
 than 28,000,000 of bushels of wheat,  
 and other cereals and fruits in propor-  
 tion. In the same time we have pro-  
 duced 1,885,884 barrels of salt, 1,125-  
 230 tons of iron ore, and copper, coal,  
 plaster and slate in very large  
 amounts, of which I have not full statis-  
 tics for the year. The production of  
 ingot copper in 1877 was 19,385 tons.

FINANCES.  
 The treasury presents a satisfactory  
 condition. The cash on hand Sep-  
 tember 30, 1876, was \$1,064,005 30.  
 The receipts from all sources for the  
 two years ending September 30, 1878,  
 aggregate \$4,194,739 21. The total ex-  
 penditures for the same period amount  
 to \$4,828,404 16. The balance in the  
 treasury on the 30th day of September  
 last was \$400,340 35. No part of this  
 balance belongs to the general fund,  
 which has been overdrawn in the sum  
 of \$173,011 11.

The bonded debt of the State on the  
 30th day of September, 1876, was \$1-  
 392,149 97. The policy of extinguish-  
 ing this debt as rapidly as possible has  
 been steadily pursued, and I am grati-  
 fied to inform you that in two years  
 ending the 30th day of September  
 last, it has been reduced in the sum of  
 \$433,000, leaving the total amount of  
 such indebtedness now standing  
 against the State \$959,149 97. Of the  
 bonds thus paid \$96,000 were pur-  
 chased before maturity at a premium  
 of \$14,476 80. The saving to the State  
 in interest from this purchase, after  
 deducting the premium paid, will be  
 \$10,693 20.

It being impossible to obtain more  
 of the unmatured bonds at a reason-  
 able premium, the treasurer was au-  
 thorized by the Board of Fund Com-  
 missioners to purchase \$300,000 in 44  
 per cent. United States bonds and hold  
 them to be applied toward the pay-  
 ment of the debt. This amount, with  
 the addition of the balance in the sink-  
 ing fund, \$378,251 44, and the \$46,000  
 in the canal fund, all set apart and ap-  
 plicable to the payment of the bonded  
 debt, when deducted therefrom, re-  
 duces the total amount thereof to the  
 sum of \$234,895 53. Then if we take  
 into account \$111,827 48 of specific  
 taxes unpaid September 30, 1878, and  
 due on call, the State bonded debt, less  
 the funds applicable to its payment,  
 will be further reduced to the sum of  
 \$123,071 05. It may be further ex-  
 pected that the receipts of the sinking  
 fund within the coming two years  
 will be sufficient to fully pay off the  
 entire remainder of the bonded debt.  
 We have thus abundant provision for  
 speedily freeing the State from all li-  
 abilities of this character. The Consti-  
 tution creates the sinking fund, and  
 declares that the surplus of the specific  
 taxes received, after payment of interest  
 upon the educational funds and the  
 extinguishment of the public debt  
 shall be added to and constitute a part  
 of the primary school interest fund.

If no change is made in this pro-  
 vision, as soon as the bonded debt is  
 provided for the school fund will ab-  
 sorb the large surplus which yearly  
 thereafter will be received from spec-  
 ific taxes in the sinking fund. In  
 many instances, especially where the  
 school districts are large and the settle-  
 ments sparse, the school fund already  
 provided is almost sufficient to main-  
 tain the schools. If it is doubled and  
 further increased from year to year, as  
 it will be, if this constitutional pro-  
 vision remains, many districts will  
 shortly have more school money than  
 they need, a result not likely to be  
 beneficial to the schools or to the pub-  
 lic.

Therefore, deeming this enlargement  
 of the school fund not desirable, I re-  
 commend an amendment to the consti-  
 tution carrying this surplus, when  
 ascertained, into the general fund.

The indebtedness of the State to the  
 trust funds on the 30th day of Septem-  
 ber 1876, was \$3,479,846 71, and on the  
 30th day of September, 1878, \$3,324-  
 777 82, an increase in two years of  
 \$245,481 11. This indebtedness is now  
 composed of the following funds and  
 amounts:

Primary School Fund.....	\$2,369,114 15
5 per cent Primary School Fund.....	315,836 18
University Fund.....	45,517 55
Normal School Fund.....	63,421 82
Agricultural College Fund.....	100,784 89
Railroad and other deposits.....	3,303 72
	\$3,324,777 82

While it is cheering to know that  
 the bonded debt of the State is rapidly  
 decreasing, and through the operation  
 of the sinking fund will soon disap-  
 pear, it should not be forgotten that

the indebtedness to the trust fund has  
 been for years steadily accumulating.  
 It should also be remembered that  
 the present condition of the Treasury  
 does not warrant any lavish expendi-  
 ture of the public moneys. The main-  
 taining of our recently established  
 State institutions, together with the  
 cost of heating, lighting and caring for  
 this new Capitol building, which  
 necessarily will be very much greater  
 than formerly, will considerably in-  
 crease the ordinary expenses of the  
 State government.

These considerations, taken in con-  
 nection with the fact that many of our  
 municipalities are carrying a heavy  
 burden of debt created for local pur-  
 poses, should lead you to avoid any  
 schemes for additional taxation not of  
 absolute necessity.

MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS AND AS-  
 SESSMENTS.

It is a source of regret that we have  
 no means through the State offices, or  
 in any other manner readily accessible,  
 of ascertaining the total indebtedness  
 of the counties, cities, towns, villages  
 and school districts of the State, or the  
 aggregate amount levied each year in  
 such localities for county, town, school  
 and road taxes; such information  
 would afford full knowledge of the  
 complete public debt of the State and  
 its subdivisions, with the whole  
 amount of taxes imposed therein; it  
 would enable legislators to act more  
 understandingly than they can at  
 present in making appropriations and  
 providing for just taxation; it would  
 also advise the people more perfectly  
 of the sources that draw means from  
 them by taxation, and I apprehend  
 would promote greater care and more  
 equality in the imposition of burdens  
 of this kind. I would respectfully  
 suggest the propriety of providing, by  
 proper enactment, for such informa-  
 tion.

The aggregate value of all the real  
 and personal property of the State, as  
 returned by the assessors in 1876, was  
 as follows:

Real estate.....	\$308,753,035 74
Personal property.....	63,127,992 49
Total.....	\$371,881,028 23

It is alleged, and I have no doubt  
 with truth, that this valuation does  
 not show much more than one-third  
 of the real worth of the property as-  
 sessed. I have no information of the  
 aggregate amount of the assessments  
 for 1877 and 1878, but have reason to  
 believe that they are made upon the  
 same basis as those in our State con-  
 stitution, which seems to me manda-  
 tory, declares that all assessments  
 upon property shall be at its cash value.  
 I call attention to this subject because,  
 through the decision of the courts in  
 other States, recently made, parties  
 representing large property interests  
 have been enabled to evade payment  
 of their taxes in consequence of disre-  
 gard of similar statutory provision by  
 assessors.

STATE INSTITUTIONS.  
 I take great pleasure in informing  
 you that in almost ever instance the  
 appropriations of two years ago have  
 not been exceeded. The State institu-  
 tions have lived within their means,  
 and by prudently adhering to a deter-  
 mination to use no more money than  
 could be paid with the ordinary ap-  
 propriations, they have kept out of  
 debt, and will come before you with  
 no deficiencies in revenue to be made  
 up and provided for. The new policy  
 has not disturbed the working of the  
 institutions, nor in any wise impaired  
 their usefulness, and I hope it may  
 prevail in the future. Their manage-  
 ment, taken as a whole, has been good,  
 and generally they are in excellent or-  
 der.

STATE PRISONS.  
 The State Prison continues to be  
 over-crowded. The number of convicts  
 therein on the 30th of September last  
 was 804, being 156 more than the es-  
 tablishment has cells to accommodate.  
 The daily average for the year was  
 808. The earnings for the past two  
 years were \$204,920 57, and the ordi-  
 nary expenses \$200,217 93, which  
 shows a balance for the whole  
 period to the credit of the prison of  
 \$4,702 64. During the past year the  
 disbursement have exceeded the earn-  
 ings in the sum of \$831 79. This is  
 largely due to the general de-  
 pression in business which has  
 greatly lessened the demand for con-  
 vict labor and made it impossible to  
 contract for the work of the prisoners  
 at as favorable rates as formerly.

But in addition to this a loss of \$14-  
 156 32 suffered by the prison in 1875  
 and 1876 on a contract for prison labor  
 used in the manufacture of cigars,  
 made with one Charles Hollingsworth,  
 appears as a deficit now, when in fact  
 it was a loss then. In 1875 Hollings-  
 worth failed. His stock of cigars was  
 taken by the inspectors in December of  
 that year by virtue of the lien of the  
 State thereon and not disposed of until  
 after the annual report for 1876 was  
 made, consequently the statement of  
 the loss does not appear therein, as the  
 goods had not been sold or the amount  
 of the deficiency ascertained. With  
 this loss placed where it should be,  
 the prison accounts would not at any  
 time within the past two years have  
 shown a deficit. The addition to the  
 east wing of the prison and to the  
 wagon shop, as well as the  
 extension of the engine room, author-  
 ized by the last Legislature, have  
 been built. The State shop and coop-  
 ershop have likewise been constructed,  
 but no work has been done on the pro-  
 posed extension of the prison wall.  
 The inspectors represent the general  
 management and discipline as satisfac-  
 tory, and the health of the convicts  
 good. I invite your special attention  
 to the valuable statistical reports of the  
 warden.

An embarrassing difficulty has  
 arisen in the administration of im-  
 prisonment which demands your at-  
 tention. A woman was convicted in  
 the Superior Court of the city of Grand  
 Rapids of the crime of arson, and sen-  
 tenced to the State prison for the term  
 of her natural life. The prison hav-  
 ing no suitable department for the re-  
 ception of female convicts, I conferred  
 with the authorities of the Detroit  
 House of Correction with a view of  
 commuting the sentence to imprison-  
 ment in that institution, this having  
 been the course previously pursued in  
 cases of women similarly sentenced.  
 To my surprise the managers of the  
 establishment declined to receive her,  
 and arrangements had to be made for  
 her temporary accommodation in the  
 jail of Jackson county. She has re-  
 mained there for several months un-  
 der circumstances of inconvenience  
 not tending to the improvement of her

morals nor to securing that restraint  
 and labor contemplated by her sen-  
 tence. When the transfer of female  
 convicts commenced from the State  
 Prison to the Detroit House of Correc-  
 tion it seems to have been the under-  
 standing that thereafter none of this  
 class of convicts were to be kept in the  
 prison, as no arrangement was provid-  
 ed for keeping them there. It was  
 evidently contemplated that all of  
 them would be sent to the House of  
 Correction, and such has been the pro-  
 ceeding until the action to which I  
 have referred. If the managers of the  
 Detroit establishment may at their  
 election refuse admission to female  
 prisoners, then it is clear that some  
 other provision must be made for such  
 offenders. In this connection I may  
 add that the management claim that  
 the State should pay board for all the  
 female convicts transferred from the  
 prison, numbering some 32. I am ad-  
 vised that the transfer of these prison-  
 ers was at the solicitation of the au-  
 thorities of the House of Correction,  
 and that the suggestion of pay for  
 keeping them is of very recent origin.

The whole number of convicts in  
 the prisons of the State, September 30,  
 1878, was 1,519, of whom only 134 were  
 females. While this showing is greatly  
 to the credit of the sex, it increases  
 rather than lessens the obligations of  
 the State, to see that prisoners of this  
 class are well and humanely cared for.  
 I submit the matter to you, so that ac-  
 tion may be taken to remedy the diffi-  
 culty suggested as speedily as possible.

STATE HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

The State House of Correction was  
 opened for the reception of inmates on  
 the 15th day of August, 1877. The  
 entire building, with the exception of  
 one wing of cells, is complete, and the  
 enclosing wall constructed. The work  
 appears to be well done and the build-  
 ings admirably adapted for the pur-  
 poses contemplated in their erection.  
 The total cost of construction thus far  
 is \$256,029 17. The Building Com-  
 missioners seem to have discharged  
 their duties faithfully and with  
 fidelity to the public interests. The  
 whole number of prisoners, up to and  
 including the 30th day of September  
 last, was 484, of whom 131 had been  
 transferred from the State prison at  
 Jackson, and 353 received by sentence  
 of court. The whole number of prison-  
 ers in the institution on said 30th day  
 of September, 1878, was 233. The  
 whole expense of maintaining the insti-  
 tution from the opening thereof until  
 the 30th day of September last was  
 \$58,443 52, and the earnings \$5,892 59,  
 leaving an excess of expendi-  
 tures of \$52,550 93. A consid-  
 erable portion of the work on the  
 buildings in progress of construction  
 during the last year, as well as a large  
 amount of grading on the prison  
 grounds, has been done with the labor  
 of the prisoners. No favorable op-  
 portunity for contracting the labor of  
 the men has offered until recently,  
 when an arrangement was closed to  
 place 100 to 200 of them on permanent  
 paying work from January 1, 1879.  
 The managers ask a special appropria-  
 tion of \$8,184 80 for certain furnishing  
 purposes detailed in their report. They  
 further solicit the privilege of using  
 \$5,000 of the appropriations heretofore  
 made for the purpose of purchasing  
 land adjacent to the institution.

PARDONS.

The whole number of persons dis-  
 charged from the prisons of the State  
 by pardon within the last two years  
 was 45. The number of commutations  
 for the same period was 3. Of the  
 pardoned convicts, two had been con-  
 victed of murder, one of whom was  
 released because of evidence developed  
 after the trial seemed to establish inno-  
 cence, and the other on the representa-  
 tion of officials that he was insane  
 when the crime was committed and  
 continued so during the whole  
 term of imprisonment. In the latter  
 case, although assured that the period  
 of violence had long passed, and the  
 insanity assumed a harmless type,  
 required his friends to bind themselves  
 to care for him during life in such  
 manner as to prevent his doing further  
 harm. The whole number of pardons  
 granted in 1869 was 16; in 1870, 16;  
 in 1871, 26; in 1872, 22; in 1873, 37;  
 in 1874, 30; in 1875, 33; in 1876, 23;  
 in 1877, 16, and in 1878, 29. From this  
 statement it will be perceived that the  
 exercise of the pardoning power has  
 been less frequent under my adminis-  
 tration than formerly, and the differ-  
 ence will be more apparent when it is  
 remembered that the number of con-  
 victs in the prisons within either of  
 the last two years considerably exceeds  
 the number imprisoned in any other  
 year of the series. In thus reducing  
 the exercise of the pardoning power I  
 have been largely governed by the  
 consideration that the enactment of  
 the Legislature of 1875, known as the  
 "good time law," places it within the  
 power of a convict, by diligence and  
 good behavior, to himself greatly less-  
 en his term of imprisonment. The  
 allowance of time under this law for  
 such conduct ranges on a gradual  
 scale, commencing from two months for  
 the first year, six months for the  
 second year, and so on, until a convict's  
 release measurably in his own hands,  
 and it is itself a liberal grant of pardon.  
 It has worked well in practice,  
 stimulating convicts to conduct them-  
 selves in an obedient and orderly  
 manner, and has thus proved of valu-  
 able aid in the discipline of the prisons.  
 I am further of the conviction that the  
 too frequent exercise of Executive  
 clemency tends to defeat the ends of  
 justice, to render punishment for  
 crime uncertain, and to make prison-  
 ers restless and uneasy.

I have, therefore, limited it to few-  
 er cases than formerly, and before  
 granting it have required a notice of  
 the application to be published. The  
 appeals and impertinencies for pardons  
 are numerous. Four out of every five,  
 on examination, are declined. I have  
 endeavored to confine those granted to  
 cases where the conviction was errone-  
 ous, the sentence unusually severe, or  
 the circumstances of such a character  
 that both justice and mercy seemed to  
 require my interposition.

In almost every instance the action  
 has been taken with the approval of  
 the judge who imposed the penalty.  
 That errors will sometimes occur in  
 the determination of such cases is cer-  
 tain; but they would be fewer if cer-  
 tainly, prosecutors and influential  
 citizens, clamorous to get a criminal  
 in prison, were not equally clamorous  
 in a short time to get him out.

REFORM SCHOOL.

The Reformatory School had within its  
 charge on the 30th of September last

327 boys. This is an increase of 65  
 over last year, and 85 over 1876. The  
 superintendent of the school seems to  
 have been careful and judicious, and  
 the management good. The escapes  
 have been few, although the re-  
 moval of bars and bolts make the op-  
 portunities many. The boys have  
 been organized into a military com-  
 pany and furnished by the State with  
 arms and accoutrements. They drill  
 regularly and well, enjoying it with a  
 keen relish. The board of control es-  
 timates the ordinary expenses for the  
 coming two years at \$39,150 per year.  
 They also ask a special appropriation  
 of \$27,507 51, the items of which will  
 be found in their report.

REFORMATORY FOR GIRLS.

The subject of a reformatory for  
 girls, to be placed exclusively under  
 the direction and control of women,  
 has engaged the public attention. The  
 success of similar institutions founded  
 in other States has created a convic-  
 tion that one might be established to  
 good advantage here. That it would  
 be useful in saving many girls who  
 have started on vicious courses from  
 lives of vice and immorality I cannot  
 doubt.

If you shall be satisfied that the  
 number of dissolute girls in the State  
 of a criminal tendency, is, or is likely  
 to be, sufficient to make such an in-  
 stitution a necessity, then steps to-  
 ward the undertaking would seem  
 wise. I doubt, however, the policy of  
 creating such establishment with the  
 design of making it partly a refuge for  
 indigent or truant girls who have no  
 criminal proclivities. Experience  
 shows that public institutions are not  
 always the best places for the training  
 of young persons. The tendency is  
 to destroy self-reliance and self-help,  
 elements of character necessary to  
 success in life. Besides, the mixing of  
 these classes with the depraved and  
 vicious would serve to corrupt them  
 and result in more harm than good.  
 It is for you to consider the subject in  
 all its bearings, and while carefully  
 avoiding any needless multiplication  
 of State institutions, to make such  
 provisions as shall be found actually  
 necessary.

STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The State Public School is a charity  
 peculiar to Michigan. In no other  
 State is there an institution like it that  
 I am aware of. It aims to prevent  
 pauperism and crime by removing  
 children from the corrupting and con-  
 taminating associations of the poor  
 house and placing them where they  
 may be prepared for good homes and  
 useful lives. The whole number of  
 children in the school on the 30th day  
 of September last was 313. The cur-  
 rent expenses for 1877 were \$30,937 79,  
 and for 1878, \$33,648 04. The per  
 capita cost for each child during the  
 last year was \$81 67. The school has  
 been run within the appropriations,  
 and apparently in a prudent and care-  
 ful manner. The board ask an appropria-  
 tion of \$75,000 for current expenses  
 for the ensuing two years, with an  
 additional \$10,000 for sundry items  
 specified in the report. It also asks  
 authority to buy some 60 acres of land  
 for pasturage and other purposes, and  
 suggests that provision be made for the  
 employment by the institution of a  
 visiting agent, whose duty it shall be  
 to seek out homes for the children and  
 otherwise look after their interests.  
 The further suggestion is made that  
 quite a number of the children suffer  
 from chronic disease and require medi-  
 cal treatment or surgical aid, and that  
 measures should be taken to have it  
 furnished at the State hospital at Ann  
 Arbor.

MICHIGAN ASYLUM.

During the biennial period just  
 passed, the Asylum for the Insane at  
 Kalamazoo has provided treatment for  
 1,133 patients. The daily average for  
 the same time has been 645. In August  
 last, 222 were transferred to the East-  
 ern Asylum. The transfer relieved  
 the institution from the crowded con-  
 dition under which it had been labor-  
 ing for a long time previous. The  
 whole number of patients on the 1st  
 day of October last was 457. The re-  
 ceipts from all sources during the two  
 years have been \$303,394 63, and the  
 disbursements \$299,400 23, leaving in  
 the treasury September 30, \$3,245 64.  
 Dr. E. H. Van Deusen, who has  
 faithfully devoted many of the best  
 years of his life to the organization  
 and management of the Asylum, has  
 resigned the place of Medical Superin-  
 tendent, and has been succeeded by  
 Dr. George R. Palmer, who has served  
 for many years as an assistant. Some  
 time since an action for false impris-  
 onment was brought against the Su-  
 perintendent of this Asylum by a  
 person who had been taken  
 and kept for a time in the  
 institution by direction of one  
 of the superintendents having  
 charge of the poor in a county of the  
 State. The cases involves important  
 questions pertaining to the determi-  
 nation of lunacy, the character of pa-  
 tients entitled to be admitted to the  
 asylum, and the forms requisite to  
 warrant their detention. It is now  
 pending in the Supreme Court, and its  
 decision may make some revision of  
 the law in this regard a necessity.

EASTERN ASYLUM.

The Eastern Asylum for the Insane  
 is completed. It is substantially built  
 and pleasantly located near the city of  
 Pontiac, and has capacity for 400 lunatics.

It was constructed at a cost of \$448-  
 903 36, and its arrangements and equip-  
 ments are such as to furnish the most  
 approved means and appliances for the  
 treatment of persons afflicted with the  
 terrible disease of insanity. The  
 building reflects credit upon the com-  
 missioners and superintendent who have  
 had its construction in charge.

I constituted the commissioners,  
 with the addition of ex-Gov. Baldwin,  
 trustees for the management of the  
 asylum, and they selected Dr. M. Hurd,  
 of Kalamazoo, as medical superintendent.

It was opened for the reception of pa-  
 tients on the first day of August last,  
 and has received by transfer from Kala-  
 mazoo 222, and from other sources 91 in-  
 mates. With its well-arranged con-  
 veniences and its corps of skilled physi-  
 cians, the institution must accomplish good  
 results. The Board of Trustees ask an  
 appropriation for 1879 and 1880, aggre-  
 gating \$53,389 42, full details of which  
 may be found in their report.

INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.

The Institution for Educating the Deaf  
 and Dumb and the Blind contained upon  
 the 30th day of September last 257 pupils,  
 of whom—were blind and the remain-

der mutes. I am gratified to inform you  
 that, while the general tone and condition  
 of the institution has improved, its financial  
 showing indicates that its resources  
 have been carefully husbanded. It comes  
 before you with no deficiency, but for the  
 first time in its history with an overplus,  
 to be covered back into the treasury.  
 The trustees seek an appropriation of  
 \$61,936 for current expenses for the two  
 years to come, and \$6,300 for certain ne-  
 cessary repairs and improvements, the  
 total of which is less than the amount  
 appropriated two years ago. I think the  
 sum desired is not above the needs of  
 the institution, and should be granted.

The trustees likewise recommend an  
 appropriation of \$10,000 for constructing  
 on the premises a separate building for  
 the use of the blind.

EDUCATION.

The Superintendent of Public Instruc-  
 tion has furnished me with the following

SCHOOL STATISTICS:

	1877.	1878.
No. of children be- tween 5 and 20 years of age.....	469,444	474,990
No. of children en- rolled in public schools.....	357,139	357,815
Percentage of attend- ance on enrollment.....	.78	.76
Approximate No. not attending any school.....	103,347	108,175
Whole number of school districts.....	5,947	6,060
Number of graded schools.....	295	310
Whole number of school houses.....	6,078	6,129
Whole number of teachers employed.....	13,001	13,378
Total cost for instruc- tion (teacher's sala- ries).....	\$1,934,960 86	\$1,774,013 72
Total cost for all pub- lic schools.....	3,179,976 06	2,986,139 20

INSTITUTE ITEMS.

	1877.	1878.
No. of Teachers' Institutes held.....	74	47
Total enrollment at Teachers' Institutes.....	19,448	29,363
Total expense for Institutes.....	\$1,945 63	\$5,460 63
Amount of county Institute aid expended.....	441 90	3,915 63
Aid from State Treasury to In- stitutes.....	1,503 63	1,545 00

It will be perceived that we pay most  
 liberally for education, and yet with our  
 great munificence we fail to bring all  
 our children under the advantage of in-  
 struction, even in the lower branches of  
 learning. A large number attend school  
 for only a brief period, while a few  
 are growing up without any school-  
 ing at all. The ending sought to be at-  
 tained is the instruction of every child  
 of the State in the elementary studies, and  
 success will not be complete until this is  
 an accomplished result. While our sys-  
 tem of teaching is in the main excellent,  
 thoughtful observers declare that it is  
 wanting in thoroughness. Children are  
 pushed too rapidly, and as a consequence  
 acquirements are always superficial.  
 More of our national and State history,  
 it seems to me, might be taught to ad-  
 vantage. The latter abounds in romantic  
 and instructive events that every citizen  
 of Michigan should be familiar with.  
 The early explorations of the volatile  
 French traders as they skirted the great  
 lakes in their light canoes; the zeal of  
 the Marquette and Jesuit Fathers in their  
 efforts to convert the Indians; the career  
 of Pontiac and of Tecumseh, those great-  
 est of savage chieftains; the struggle be-  
 tween France and England for the con-  
 trol of our territory; the war of 1812,  
 with the surrender of Hull; the massa-  
 cre at the River Raisin, and the



## THE NEW CAPITOL.

The new State Capitol at Lansing was dedicated January 1st. The exercises opened with music by the Lansing Light Guard Band, followed by Prayer by Bishop Gillispie.

The oath of office was next administered to the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor by Chief Justice Campbell.

ADDRESS OF EX-GOVERNOR FELCH.

Ex-Governor Felch was then introduced by Gov. Croswell as the oldest ex-Governor and the oldest ex-Senator in the State. Mr. Felch, in a clear voice and with strong utterance, read the following address:

YOUR EXCELLENCY, FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS: The occasion which brings us together in this hall is one of no ordinary interest. It is the period designated by our State constitution when both executive and legislative power passes into new hands. The same popular will which entrusted it to their predecessors commits it now to the keeping of agents selected by the same popular suffrage, or renews its commission to the faithful and the true. It is the result of that glorious feature of a free representative government—choice of rulers by the sovereign will of the people—change of officials, with no change of principles by which they are to be guided—no revolution, no revolution.

We have just heard the administration of the official oath, in this presence, to the chief executive officer of the State. To me this inauguration is a most impressive scene. Ever since the establishment of our government—more than 40 years ago—this same oath has been administered on every occasion of the incoming of a new administration. It imposes duties neither light nor trivial. The pledge to support the constitution in its true and broadest sense, and to perform faithfully the duties of the executive office, is the solemn assumption of the highest responsibilities, and all feel the propriety of the solemn appeal to the Most High in assuming them. And while I listen to its measured words, I turn to you, my fellow-citizens, and seem to hear from the lips of every one in this great assembly the response, I too will support the Constitution of the U. S. and of the State of Michigan, and in my more humble sphere, will faithfully perform my duty to the Commonwealth. And even from beyond the walls of the Capitol, from the lips of our fellow-citizens throughout the State, I seem to listen to the same impressive words joining in one common pledge to our country's welfare. [Applause.]

But this session presents other most interesting features. We enter to-day this new Capitol of our State. Hitherto the government may be said to have dwelt in tents—to-day it enters its permanent temple; and as its portals are thrown open to the several departments of the government, and we congratulate ourselves on the auspicious occasion, the history of past progress comes vividly before our minds.

It was on the 3d day of November, 1835, that Steven T. Mason, the first Governor of the State of Michigan, took the official oath under the first constitution. Although not recognized by Congress as an admitted member of the Federal Union until January, 1837, the State of Michigan practically dates its existence from the organization of 1835. This period of over 43 years has been marked by wonderful and almost magic changes.

The population, then less than 90,000, has constantly increased, until by an addition of some 1,400,000, it numbers more than 1,500,000 people.

The State, mindful of its duty to the unfortunate, has scattered over its territory noble institutions for the alleviation of their sorrows. The asylums for the insane, the deaf, the dumb and the blind, are the outgrowth of our State organization; and the ample provision for the unfortunate poor in every county attests how well the duty of the public to the individual citizen has been performed.

The educational interests of the State have been liberally fostered and most wisely directed. No State in the Union has established throughout her domain more numerous and more noble institutions of learning. Wherever settlers, whether few or many in numbers, have fixed their abode, their school-house and the teacher are their near neighbors, and the standard of instruction is nowhere higher than here. And when we turn to the institutions of higher education, we can but congratulate ourselves on the eminent character which they have attained. At the head of them all—I speak with due acknowledgement of the great merits of others also—stands that noble State institution, the University of Michigan, an institution whose growth is a marvel, whose history has no parallel, whose sons have already become a power in the land, whose eminence challenges and receives such general admiration from abroad, and whose promise of future usefulness was never so bright as to-day. The meagre fund in land conceded by the Federal Government for a University might easily have been squandered and lost, as has happened in many other States having the same endowment; but here, through all its perils, it has been guarded, nursed and fostered with a watchful care and zeal almost without parallel. All honor to the early Governors of the State who stood so firmly by the fund, and whose recorded messages transmit to us most ample proofs of the zealous care with which they guarded the treasure, and the wisdom and success with which they labored to build up an institution of learning as never an institution of learning was built up before. All honor to the successors of these early friends who have never ceased to foster and aid it as the child and the glory of the State.

This period of time since our State organization has wrought its changes all about us. Where then we stand in the uncultivated wilderness, we stand now amid the beauties that pertain to an old and well cultivated country. The forest has receded, and fields laden with rich harvests and smiling with the thousand charms and comforts of prosperous agricultural life stretch themselves out on every side. Railroads, almost unknown in 1835, now intersect nearly every portion of the State. Rich mineral deposits have been discovered and the mines have yielded up their stores of wealth. The forests have supplied their treasures. Machinery of every kind is everywhere busy, and all the industrial arts with every modern invention and every newly discovered power of nature, are at work. Is it wonderful then that everywhere in town and country alike the present should be so unlike the past? They who best remember the condition of things at the organization of the State can best appreciate, in view of the present, the wonderful change that has taken place. We behold then the beautiful peninsula such as nature had made it, little changed by the hand of man; we now behold the organized State, with its cities and its towns and its noble institutions, glorying in the wealth, the population and the prosperity of an older State. [Applause.]

If these years have brought such marked changes within our territorial limits, the changes in our outside relations are no less remarkable. Michigan and Arkansas were admitted together to the sisterhood of the States. Twenty-four States then constituted the Federal Union. Twelve new States, covering an immense extent of territory, have since been organized and taken their places as members of the Union.

The nation is no longer the same. Since the time referred to, broad extents of country have been added to her territorial limits. On the west, Mexico and Russia have ceded large regions of country washed by the waves of the Pacific Ocean. Texas, with a territory wide enough to constitute kingdoms, has come under the national jurisdiction. And the almost limitless country lying between the slopes of the Nevadas on the west, and the great lakes on the East, partitioned into convenient portions, presents itself now as organized States and Territories. We glory in the rapid march of national progress, and we rejoice with the knowledge that the period of the existence of our State is a memorable era in the advance of our nation, and that although her form of government is widely different from all foreign nationalities, she stands in the first rank of the powers of the earth.

No region of this vast national domain has had a more interesting history than our own Michigan. In early times it felt the power and yielded to the jurisdiction of more than one foreign sovereign. One of the most formal acts of taking possession of a great country that history records, had its scene within our borders. In 1701 the representatives of Louis XIV. of France stood in the midst of the congregated Indians of the Northwest, and around him were priests in the rich vestments of their order, and His Majesty's soldiers equipped and glittering in their uniforms and their arms. The consecrated cross was raised, and the loud anthem broke upon the ear. Then at its side, with great form and ceremony, a cedar post was erected with the royal arms attached, and the representative of the king, holding his sword in one hand and raising a sod of earth with the other, proclaimed with a loud voice, in the name of his master the most high, mighty and redoubtable monarch, Louis the Fourteenth, most Christian King of France, that he took possession of all the country round about, from the great lakes to the South Sea, declaring to all the nations therein that they were vassals of his majesty and bound to obey his will, and prohibiting all that where not his dutiful subjects—all potentates, princes, sovereigns and republics—from entering into or infringing upon his majesty's domain.

If pomp and ceremony and bold proclamation could always secure permanent success, the banner of France would still wave over our territory. As it was, the French monarch held the country subject to his scepter until 1763; and during that interval of time the Governor General of Canada administered its affairs. Then British sovereignty succeeded, and until 1783 the British flag floated over it, and British governors were its rulers. Then succeeded the territorial organization, under the American flag, which covered the region—first as a part of the great Northwestern territory, then as a portion of Indiana; then the territory of Michigan, and finally succeeded the State.

The complexity of our nation with foreign powers in regard to our territorial domain is a curious item in our history. Within our present national limits France, England, Spain, the Dutch, Mexico and Russia have severally, at some time, had jurisdiction and possession of portions of our soil, but these, by honorable national arrangements, have finally been relinquished, and our cherished form of free and representative government has taken the place of all of them.

It was my fortune, just 33 years ago, in obedience to the suffrages of my fellow citizens, to take the official oath as Governor of Michigan. As I look through the intervening years that lie between that and the present similar occasion, I seem to be carried back to the very origin of our State—almost to the very fountain head whence flow the sweet waters of our prosperity. From the adoption of the State constitution to the occasion to which I have referred, three individuals only had occupied the executive chair. I should do injustice to my feelings and be false to my sentiment of veneration if I failed to speak in this assembly the revered names of Mason and Woodbridge and Barry.

They were the first to be honored with this high position, and they were worthy to bear the first honors. They were called to arduous duties in the infancy of the republic—to organizing the State Government, and to moulding and forming and establishing its new institutions, but each was competent to the task, and each successfully performed it.

No man, whose memory runs back to

that period, will ever forget the youthful Mason, ardent, chivalric, accomplished, alert in the performance of every duty—a boy in years, but in judgment a man of mature wisdom. Almost worshipping the State of his adoption, he was himself the idol of his fellow-citizens. His messages and the record of his administration will show how bravely he battled against error, how firmly he stood against all wrong, how strenuously, yet in the kindest temper, he urged the measures which he deemed most beneficial to the rising State.

And not less prominently before us rises the venerable form of Gov. Woodbridge. A man mature in years, of great mental power, of the most refined culture, an able lawyer and statesman, he proved himself equal to every emergency, and bore most worthily the many honors conferred upon him.

And Governor Barry stands worthily in the company of these his compeers a man of mark and merit. Laborious, in the performance of official duty, zealous in his care for the public interests, studying and enforcing the strictest economy in times of public embarrassments, and always seeking the greatest good of the State, the confidence of the community in him never diminished, and their repeated calls for his return to the executive office attest the strength of the hold which he continued to have upon the affections of the public.

Many noble men have succeeded these in the same official positions, and have both deserved and secured the approval and the gratitude of their constituency; but in the long list of names none more worthy are found than these, the earliest of our standard bearers.

But they are with us no longer. They and their worthy co-workers also, with few exceptions, have passed to the assemblage of the great majority beyond the verge of life. We cast fresh flowers on their graves, and turn to the present and the future.

Let me congratulate you, my fellow citizens, on the auspicious occasion of opening the new Capitol of our State. This beautiful structure is not built for the present alone, but for the future also. Its solid foundations and its massive walls proclaim stability and permanency. It is to be the lasting abode of the three branches of our government—the Executive, the Legislative and the Judicial—and its portals, opened to-day, receive them within its walls. Here is the council-house where public measures must be discussed and determined. Here is the place where the wrongs of the citizen must be righted and his rights defended and protected. It is a just demand of the great public that wise and beneficent laws should come from the Legislative Department, a firm and true administration of its appropriate duties from the Executive, and from the Judicial Department that faithful, intelligent and impartial distribution of justice which shall fall like a blessing upon the land. [Applause.]

May this capitol, in the solidity of its structure and the indestructibility of its materials, prove a fitting emblem and a happy augury of the permanency of the republic. It would be far better that its proud walls should be overthrown and its solid foundation stones be ground to powder and scattered to the winds, than that any sacrilegious hand should mar the foundation principles of our republic. Error writes its record on unstable water, but permanency is inscribed upon every great truth and every just principle.

My faith is strong in the perpetuity of our system of free government, based as it is on human rights and the welfare of the human family. We cannot know what the future may bring forth; but for myself, as I fix my eyes upon the cloud that rests over it, I see it illuminated by the bright bow of promise, and in cheerful hope and confidence I am content to commit the treasure to the keeping of those who shall come after us. [Applause.]

EX-GOVERNOR GREELEY

Confined his remarks principally to a history of the removal of the State Capital from Detroit to Lansing.

EX-GOVERNOR BLAIR.

Made an extempore address, in which he said:

As has been very excellently said already, we are moving to-day into a new State Capitol, a building somewhat larger and more imposing than that in which those of us who went before were obliged to perform the public business. I hope that it is only an evidence that the State itself has broadened out somewhat in its ideas.

I congratulate you upon what has been done. But I desire more particularly to call your attention to some other things that need to be done. There are enough to tell you, and always will be, of all the fine and beautiful things we have done; of the magnificent buildings we have erected, the magnificent system of schools which we have established, the benevolent institutions which cover our state—which are all exceedingly well in their way. But the duty never departs from us to take care that these are properly administered. For if we don't, that which was intended as a blessing, and ought to be, becomes a curse. You remember, perhaps, the remark of Alexander Pope. He says:

"For forms of government let fools contest; That which is best administered is best."

And that has a world of truth in it.

"That which is best administered is best." It is the administration after all. We are all patriotic, I suppose, and design well, and we all would be glad, at least, to be wise if we could; but in looking at the past we ought to see what we need for the future. And as we all became convinced at last that we needed a new Capitol, and the people have been willing to spend \$1,500,000, or something like that in building it, I congratulate them that they have done a most excellent thing. And now I ask them if, having gone so far, they do not think that they could afford—this great and magnanimous people of Michigan, organized in such a wonderful way, accomplishing such amazing

results—do you not think they could afford to give the Governor, hereafter, about half as good a salary, at least, as they pay to a common dry goods clerk almost anywhere in Lansing? [Tremendous applause and laughter.] The Ex-Governor continued at considerable length in an earnest plea for an equitable salary for Judges, and closed with words of hope and encouragement for the future.

EX-GOV. BALDWIN'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Baldwin was introduced as the Governor who first proposed the construction of the new Capitol and under whom the enterprise was inaugurated. He spoke as follows:

We are here to-day in answer to an invitation from the Governor of the State. The occasion which calls us together is one of interest to every citizen of Michigan. Another milestone is to be set up to mark the progress of the State, and it may not be amiss that we recall to memory some of the historical incidents connected with the growth and advancement of our noble commonwealth.

For nearly two centuries the territory which is now the State of Michigan was a part of the jurisdiction of Canada, belonging to France until the year 1760, then to Great Britain, until by the treaty of peace of 1783 it became a part of the territory of the United States, but it was surrendered, and did not actually become an American possession until 1796.

It was a part of the Northwestern Territory organized under the ordinance of 1787, with Cincinnati as its first seat of government, and Arthur St. Clair as its first Territorial Governor.

Michigan next became a part of the new Territory of Indiana, organized in 1802, with Vincennes as its seat of government, and Gen. Wm. Henry Harrison as its Governor. This connection continued but a short time, as the Territory of Michigan was organized in 1805, with Detroit as the seat of government and Gen. William Hull as its first Governor. The legislative power was committed to the Governor and three judges appointed by Congress. The Governor and judges met for the first time in July of that year, at the Indian Council House in Detroit, and the Government of Michigan commenced its existence. The population of the Territory was about 3,000. In 1820 it had increased to 8,896; in 1830 to 31,639.

The first county organization embracing any portion of the State of Michigan was made in 1796, when Wayne county was set apart. The county seat was somewhat larger than now, as it covered the whole of the subsequent Territory of Michigan and a part of the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin.

The right of suffrage did not exist in the Territory until, by an act of Congress, in 1819, the people were authorized to elect a delegate to Congress. The elective franchise was still further extended, in 1823, by an act of Congress authorizing the election of a Legislative Council, to consist of nine members, to be appointed by the President from eighteen persons to be chosen by the people.

In 1834 the population of the territory had increased to 87,000, sufficient to warrant a State organization. In January, 1835, an act was passed by the Legislative Council authorizing a convention to form a Constitution. The convention met and framed a Constitution, which was adopted by the people in October. State officers and a Legislature were elected at the same time. The Legislature met in November of the same year, with Steven T. Mason as the first Governor of the State.

A contest having arisen between Ohio and Michigan as to the boundary line between the two States, the famous "Toledo war" occurred. The boundary question was eventually settled by Ohio getting Toledo, and Michigan receiving its territory in the Upper Peninsula as an equivalent.

In 1823 an edifice of brick, designed for a court house, was erected in Detroit, and used as the Territorial and State Capitol until 1847, when, by an act of the Legislature, the seat of government was removed to Lansing.

The second State House—the one just abandoned—a plain frame building erected in 1847, was occupied by the Legislature of 1848, and by each subsequent Legislature until the present one. It still stands a monument of the wise economy of those days.

The Governor, in his message to the Legislature of 1871, called the attention of that body to the necessity for the erection of a new State Capitol. The recommendation resulted in the passage of an act providing for the erection of a new State House, and a building for the temporary use of the State officers, and for the appointment of a board of State Building Commissioners. Appropriations were made in the same act for the temporary building, for cost of plans, and \$100,000 towards the new Capitol.

At an extra session of the Legislature, in March, 1872, additional appropriations amounting to \$1,100,000 were made, intended with the previous appropriation to cover the whole cost of the building.

In July of 1872 a contract was made for the construction of the whole building. And we are here to-day to unite in congratulations with His Excellency the Governor, the State officers, the Houses of the Legislature and the Board of State Building Commissioners under whose intelligent and faithful supervision the beautiful, commodious and substantial edifice in which we are now assembled has been successfully constructed and completed, an edifice every way fitting and worthy of being the capitol of our growing and prosperous State for centuries to come. [Applause.]

Nearly eight years have passed and a million and a half of dollars have been expended on this stately edifice, and we rejoice in being able to congratulate the people of Michigan upon the fact that this great work was honestly begun and has been honestly completed, and that every dollar of its cost has been promptly paid without contracting debt and without being in any

sense a burden to the people. [Applause.] We are the citizens of a commonwealth with a fertile territory large enough for an empire, with advantages of location and internal resources almost unequalled, with an intelligent and industrious population of one and a half million of people, with noble institutions for educational, beneficent and reformatory purposes; goodly foundations have been laid, and to-day marks, as it were, a new epoch in the history of Michigan by the completion and occupation of this new State house, now "to be dedicated to the enactment and administration of such equal laws as will tend to establish justice and to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity for all time." [Applause.]

ADDRESS OF EX-GOVERNOR BAGLEY.

The completion of the beautiful building we this day dedicate as our State House is indeed a source of pride to every citizen of Michigan. As we move "out of the old house into the new," we are proud that we were content with the old, simple and modest as it was, narrow and contracted as it became, until we could build anew by self-imposed taxation freely paid by a willing and generous people. We are proud that it is paid for—that the roof over our head, and the hearth-stone under our feet are not mortgaged to the future. We are proud of the example the State has given to us, as individuals and communities; glad for the lesson it has taught us of fidelity, economy and prudence. We remember, too, with pride, that the wise behests of our fathers, as given to us in the organic law, that universal education should be provided for, that institutions for the unfortunate should always be maintained—were first obeyed—that no expenditure for luxury, ornament or comfort has been made, until our institutions of education, charity, persuasion and punishment have first been completed. Within the lifetime of a single generation, all these things we have faithfully done. And now, rounded out as this lifetime is, by the completion of this our State House, our hearts swell with honest pride in our beloved State; our hopes for its future are buoyant and bright; and with heartfelt gratitude to the Ruler of nations for the blessings that have so constantly abided with us, we devoutly ask for all the coming years that "peace may be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces."

Who of us to-day is the poorer for the expenditures of the State in its institutions? rather, who of us is not richer for them? If the old proverb, "what a man gives, and what he consumes is his real wealth," be true; then Michigan is rich indeed.

The State is not only grand in its acres, but in its aims—it is not great in its cities, but in its citizenship—it is not rich alone in its wealth, but in its wisdom. Upon these foundations we have built the Commonwealth, and upon these it shall stand forever.

In this new and beautiful home for all the departments of our State Government, let us highly resolve that legislation shall be for the common good; that the people shall not be forgotten in their rights, nor made unmindful of their duties; that all men of all conditions, creeds, color or circumstances, are citizens and neighbors and deserve equal care and thought, from our law-makers. Build no barriers; create no classes; but hold in one embrace, poor and rich, wise and ignorant, native and foreign-born, employer and laborer. In the things that can only be done by associations or corporations, demand the same duties that are demanded of the individual; grant the same rights—and no more—that we would to the individual.

Legislation enacted in this spirit and administered in this spirit, will, indeed, make the dream of the poet a reality:

"When the State House is the hearth,  
Then the perfect time has come—  
The Republic at home."

Our pioneer fathers, whose eyes feasted upon the virgin beauty of the State, its lakes and streams, its prairies and openings, its lovely valleys, its grand forests and generous soil, charmed with the prospect, adopted as the motto of the State, "If thou seekest a beautiful peninsula, behold it here." And we do behold it, not as they saw it, but beautified and softened by the handiwork of their children who have dotted it all over with Home and School and Church. Let us see to it that our government, in all its branches, be so just, so wise, so beneficent that we may say, if thou seekest a beautiful peninsula, not in material things alone, but in good citizenship, in pure manhood and womanhood, in love of liberty, in belief in free institutions, in care of the unfortunate, in general and liberal education, behold it here! Some one has said "the walls that see us work and dream and hope are always to us the walls of a palace." May our work for Michigan, our dreams of Michigan, our hope for Michigan be such that the walls of our State House shall indeed be always to us the walls of a palace.

REPORT OF THE BUILDING COMMISSIONERS.

The report of the Commissioners gave details as to the construction of the building, and the following statement as to expenditures:

The condition of the several appropriations for all purposes connected with the construction, steam-heating, electrician work, and other improvements of the capitol building, including that part of the furnishing of the State library, legislative halls and Supreme Court-room committed to this commission, and the improvement of grounds is as follows:

Amounts appropriated under the acts numbers 67 of 1871, and 4 of 1872, for construction,..... \$1,200,000 00  
Of which has been expended..... 1,199,574 06

Leaving a balance of..... 425 94

Under section 1 of act number 9 of 1865, for steam heating and ventilation..... 70,000 00  
Of which has been expended..... 68,472 08

Leaving a balance of..... \$1,527 32

Under section 2 of the same act for changes in the roof, steps to porticos and interior finish..... 30,000 00  
Of which has been expended..... 28,171 50

Leaving a balance of..... 1,828 50

Under act number 114, of '75, for constructing the main cornice and balustrade of stone, instead of galvanized iron, as provided in original specifications..... 65,000 00

All of which has been expended, the contract for that change having been awarded for the amount appropriated.

Under act number 37 of 1877, for electrician work and other improvements..... 25,000 00

Of which has been expended..... 24,537 09

Leaving a balance of..... 463 00

Being 10 per cent. on the contract for the electric lighting and annunciator work, which amount will be due and paid to the contractors upon the full completion and acceptance of their contract.

Under act No. 135 of 1877, for improvement of grounds and furnishing..... \$40,000 00  
Of which has been expended..... 39,743 33

Leaving a balance of..... \$256 67

The aggregate balances to this date being..... 4,501 43

Of which it is estimated that nearly \$4,000 will remain in the State Treasury after every obligation incurred by this board shall have been paid.

Mr. Grosvenor, on behalf of the Commissioners, said:

To the Honorable the Governor of the State of Michigan:

The Board of State Building Commissioners were appointed and commissioned to erect and complete a building suitable for a State Capitol. Having accomplished the task assigned to them, they have the honor to present this edifice, with all its appointments, complete from foundation to pinnacle dome, trusting it will be found fitting, convenient and secure, for the proper administration of the government of this great and growing State.

ACCEPTANCE BY GOVERNOR CROSWELL

Governor Croswell responded as follows:

In behalf of the State, it gives me great pleasure to accept this Capitol building. It has been constructed in a substantial manner, affords ample accommodations for all departments of government, comports with the character of the Commonwealth, and is worthy to stand as an evidence of the taste, spirit and enterprise of this people.

To you, gentlemen of the Building Commission, has been entrusted the charge of this work from its inception to its completion. No change has taken place in your membership, and you all are here to-day to witness the full realization of your plans and your labors.

Although this building has been erected during a period when public confidence has been repeatedly shaken by efforts in many instances on the part of those in charge of public works to make them wrongfully contribute to personal gain, no aspersion of the kind has been charged here. All your expenditures have been gauged by the limits of your appropriations. You have been scrupulous in the discharge of the duties confided to you, and careful of the interests of the State. I believe I but express the general sentiment when I say that the structure reflects credit upon yourselves, upon the architect, the builders, and others associated with you in the enterprise, and that you are justly entitled to public thanks.

We now enter upon the formal occupation of this edifice. The way for its construction was prepared by those who, preceding us, incurred the privations of the pioneer, and laid here the foundations of a government designed to promote the general welfare. Their work is confided to us. If we aim to maintain liberty, advance morality, encourage labor, and banish ignorance, we will have been true to the trust. Our places are soon to be filled by others. No man, even with prophetic vision, can compass the future of Michigan. As population flows to her, and commerce increases her wealth, let us hope that from these walls may emanate the results of wise statesmanship, impartial justice and patriotic devotion to country. [Applause.]

CONCLUSION.

The exercises closed with the benediction by Rev. F. P. Prudden.

In the evening, the building was brilliantly lighted, and the Gov. and his daughter held a reception at which a large concourse of citizens from all parts of the State were present. The scene was a most brilliant and joyous one, "Michigan, my Michigan," her institutions and progress, furnishing themes for conversation.

One of the richest young men in England, Mr. Henry Meux, who only came of age lately, having but just left college, has surprised his relatives by announcing his marriage—or rather his bride wrote the letter—to a lady with whom neither society nor any of his family had any previous acquaintance. The large brewing firm of Meux has been in existence in London for more than a century. The present owner, is a lunatic. Some idea of his wealth may be gathered from the fact that his sister, who has charge of him, receives £10,000 a year for his expenses. His wife has a jointure of £15,000 a year, and his son, the young man, receives from the Chancellor £50,000 a year as allowance. The savings from the business must amount to between two and three millions.

HOME.—Don't leave the old homestead too soon, children. Time will loose all the ties and break up the home circle soon enough without your being impatient. Cling to father and mother and home as long as you can; for in the future, when your youth is gone, and care drags heavily and the world looks coldly on, you will remember with a sickened heart, how they would comfort you at home, and will long with a weariness like unto death, to hear your father's voice, to lay your head upon your mother's shoulder, to rest for ever so little a season—safe, safe at home. Stay at home then, and keep the dear ties of kindred inviolate as long as you can.

The answer of Socrates to a person who asked when was the right time for dinner was the following: "If you are rich," said he, "you can dine when you like; and if you are poor, you can dine when you can."

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ACCEPTANCE BY GOVERNOR CROSWELL

Governor Croswell responded as follows:

In behalf of the State, it gives me great pleasure to accept this Capitol building. It has been constructed in a substantial manner, affords ample accommodations for all departments of government, comports with the character of the Commonwealth, and is worthy to stand as an evidence of the taste, spirit and enterprise of this people.

To you, gentlemen of the Building Commission, has been entrusted the charge of this work from its inception to its completion. No change has taken place in your membership, and you all are here to-day to witness the full realization of your plans and your labors.

Although this building has been erected during a period when public confidence has been repeatedly shaken by efforts in many instances on the part of those in charge of public works to make them wrongfully contribute to personal gain, no aspersion of the kind has been charged here. All your expenditures have been gauged by the limits of your appropriations. You have been scrupulous in the discharge of the duties confided to you, and careful of the interests of the State. I believe I but express the general sentiment when I say that the structure reflects credit upon yourselves, upon the architect, the builders, and others associated with you in the enterprise, and that you are justly entitled to public thanks.

We now enter upon the formal occupation of this edifice. The way for its construction was prepared by those who, preceding us, incurred the privations of the pioneer, and laid here the foundations of a government designed to promote the general welfare. Their work is confided to us. If we aim to maintain liberty, advance morality, encourage labor, and banish ignorance, we will have been true to the trust. Our places are soon to be filled by others. No man, even with prophetic vision, can compass the future of Michigan. As population flows to her, and commerce increases her wealth, let us hope that from these walls may emanate the results of wise statesmanship, impartial justice and patriotic devotion to country. [Applause.]

CONCLUSION.

The exercises closed with the benediction by Rev. F. P. Prudden.

In the evening, the building was brilliantly lighted, and the Gov. and his daughter held a reception at which a large concourse of citizens from all parts of the State were present. The scene was a most brilliant and joyous one, "Michigan, my Michigan," her institutions and progress, furnishing themes for conversation.

One of the richest young men in England, Mr. Henry Meux, who only came of age lately, having but just left college, has surprised his relatives by announcing his marriage—or rather his bride wrote the letter—to a lady with whom neither society nor any of his family had any previous acquaintance. The large brewing firm of Meux has been in existence in London for more than a century. The present owner, is a lunatic. Some idea of his wealth may be gathered from the fact that his sister, who has charge of him, receives £10,000 a year for his expenses. His wife has a jointure of £15,000 a year, and his son, the young man, receives from the Chancellor £50,000 a year as allowance. The savings from the business must amount to between two and three millions.



SATURDAY, Jan. 11, 1879.

We print, this week, selections from the Michigan tax laws. Those persons who read them will notice many discrepancies between the laws and the execution of them. We would call attention especially to the last clause in section 13, and to sections 14, 19, and 25.

According to Mr. (it used to be Hon.) Burleigh's paper, training for wrestling and being put in condition for marriage requires about the same work.—*Sentinel*.

It was "Hon." about the time the *Sentinel's* article on Col. Burleigh was copied, so extensively by the independent county press.

The Senate Committee on the State Normal School is made up of men interested in education and thoroughly alive to the needs of the school. They were selected, evidently, because they were wise, judicious, and far-sighted men. They have no person and no hobby to serve, and at their hands the School will receive its deserts.

We can see no reason why the motion to instruct our Representative in the State Legislature to have the city charter amended so as to make the taxes payable annually instead of semi-annually should prevail. Most people find it hard enough to pay their taxes when those taxes are divided. The new plan of semi-annual collections, while it may cause a trifling loss in interest, suits the convenience of tax payers, and is worthy of a longer trial.

SEVERAL persons have made it known as their opinion that in the unjust assessment of taxes, the assessors, and not the law, are to blame. But if any one will give an instance of a State having tax laws similar to ours and in which taxes are fairly assessed, we will admit that we are wrong. To make a fair assessment requires the combined honesty and efficiency of all the assessors of the State. As it is, each assessor is commended when he gets the valuation of his county or town as low as possible, and then he is upbraided because he does not assess individuals high enough.

The County of Washtenaw has every reason to be proud of the place assigned to its representative in the State Senate. The place of chairman of the Committee on Appropriations and Finance, the most important of the Senate committees, has been assigned to Mr. Childs, and the appointment is a just recognition of his familiarity with legislative business and his knowledge of the needs of the State. Mr. Childs will also serve as a member of the committees on Religious and Benevolent Societies, on Railroads, on Rules and Joint Rules, and on the Liquor Traffic. Washtenaw could not have sent to the Senate another man who could at once take such a leading position.

## PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES.

If we start with the principle laid down by Adam Smith and amended by Mill, that taxes should be assessed so that they shall fall on different individuals in proportion to their several abilities, then, theoretically, a tax on personal property is one of the most just of all taxes. The great objection, however, to a tax on personal property is the difficulty of collection. A large proportion of personal property, consisting, as it does, of stocks, bonds, etc., is so easily secreted as to escape taxation. Indeed, so great is the possibility of evasion that in Boston not more than thirty per cent. of the personal property is taxed, in the State of Connecticut only about forty per cent., and in New York City there are thirty men the sum of whose personal property is known to exceed by many millions the entire assessed value of personal property in that city. A glance over the tax rolls of our own city will convince any one that not half the personal property in Ypsilanti is taxed.

Now, as it would be manifestly unfair to take off the tax on personal property, and thus allow the most wealthy body of citizens to escape their just share of the support of the government, and also inasmuch as the present tax laws of this and other States afford ample opportunities for evasion, some new method for estimating the value of a man's personal property must be found.

In the report of the New York Commissioners on Taxation, which report was submitted to the legislature of that State in 1871, after a thorough discussion of the subject of the evasion of the tax on personal property, the commissioners recommended a new method of valuation as follows: "As an equivalent for all taxation of personal property, to tax the occupier, be he owner or tenant, of any building used as a dwelling, or for any other purpose, on a valuation of three times the rental, or rental value, of the premises occupied. Tenement houses occupied by more than one family, or tenement houses having a rental value not in excess of a fixed sum, to be taxed to the owner as occupier."

In the report of such a system of valuation, we quote Mr. Mill's remarks on the subject of a house tax: "No part of a person's expenditure is a better criterion of his means, or bears, on the whole, more nearly the same proportion to them [as does the value of the house he occupies.] A house-tax is a nearer approach to a fair income tax than a direct tax on incomes can easily be; having the great advantage that it makes spontaneously all the allowances which it is so difficult to make, and so impracticable to

make exactly, in assessing an income tax; for if what a person pays in house rent is a test of anything, it is a test, not of what he possesses, but of what he thinks he can afford to spend."

The great advantage of the proposed system is that, instead of a large number of items to be assessed, the majority of which items can be neither known nor exactly valued by the assessor, the entire valuation is made up on the basis of that one item which best shows both what a man is worth and what he feels that he can spend. Under the new system no evasion is possible, for rental value is always a known term; fluctuations in property, since they quickly show themselves in rents, are made allowance for; and the income from United States bonds, exempt under the present law, is taxed, thus placing all kinds of property on an equal footing.

The most weighty objection to the proposed change is that a miser might take advantage of it to turn his money into gold and silver, and, by living in a mean house, thus escape taxation. But the present law affords far more abundant opportunities for evasion. If a man has his money invested in stocks, those stocks would be taxed at the place of business. If the new law result in causing men to build less expensive houses, the money thus saved would go probably into the active capital of the country. The objection that the plan proposed would prevent men from acquiring a homestead is easily disposed of by omitting to assess houses below a certain value.

There has been a great deal of discussion throughout the State in regard to the inequality of our present tax laws, and we earnestly hope that the legislature will take the matter in hand this winter.

## ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY PRESS.

From the *Ann Arbor Register*.  
Zack Chandler is spoken of as a possible orator for the 22d of February.

Supervisor Krapf isn't pleased with the new Court House. In a speech before the Board last Thursday he alluded to the building in the following terms: "There she stands, with her false hair, her false teeth, and false bosom."

Rev. Samuel Day has held regular services at the jail for the past two or three Sundays. On Monday he circulated the red ribbon pledge among the inmates and secured thirteen signers. Only two or three persons refused to sign.

The following real estate transfers are reported:

E. J. Bolio to Sophia C. O. Parsons, land on Front street, Ypsilanti: \$2,250.

A. Osborne to G. A. Markam, land in section thirty-four, township of Augusta.

The *Courier*, as the lowest bidder, received the contract for the printing of the proceedings of the Board of Supervisors of 1878. After the conclusion, Saturday, of the adjourned session Lorenzo Davis proceeded to the *Courier* office with the minutes of the said session, when he was informed that the additional proceedings would not be printed without extra compensation. The Supervisors had adjourned and many of them had left town, so no action could be taken. G. S. Wheeler, chairman of the Board, and others, however, expressed the opinion that they would refuse to accept the proceedings already printed and now ready for binding, unless Beal would complete the contract for the amount agreed to. He had contracted to print the proceedings of the Board of 1878, and the proceedings of the adjourned session were part of the proceedings of the Board of 1878.

During the year 1878, 271 marriages were recorded at the clerk's office. The oldest couple whose marriage was recorded was a groom of 68, a resident of Lima and a bride of 60, a resident of Chelsea. There were several other couples who were close to the one mentioned in the matter of ages. The youngest couple were aged 19 and 16 years respectively and both hailed from Ypsilanti; who furnished another bride of 16 years, with a husband of 23. There were other brides of sixteen years, whose husbands however, were so much older than themselves that the couple can scarcely be mentioned among the young couples. In the way of disparity of ages of husband and wife, Ypsilanti again furnishes the greatest phenomenon, a bride of 19 wedded to a groom of 52. Another Ypsilanti man, aged 65, found a wife in Wayne county aged 35. There were several marriages, the parties to which were seventeen, eighteen and nineteen years old.

From the *Saline Standard*.  
The dwelling of J. F. Avery, about one and one-half miles south of this place, was burned to the ground on Thursday morning about 4 o'clock.

County Clerk Clark, recently of this place, has filed a bond in the sum of \$8,000—\$5,000 as County Clerk and \$3,000 as Register in Chancery. G. B. Mason, John W. Blakely, W. H. Berdan, A. M. Clark and H. T. Nichols are his bondsmen.

THE TAX LAWS.  
(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.)

the fifteenth section of this act; and thereupon said taxable person shall forthwith make and deliver to said supervisor a full and true statement of the taxable property in his possession, according to the provisions of this act; and immediately thereafter said supervisor shall proceed to examine said property, and estimate and set down the true value thereof, the same being the price which could be obtained therefor at private sale, and not at forced or auction sale, and being the true cash value as defined in section thirteen of this act, deducting from the moneys at interest and other credits of such person, the amount of money upon which he or she pays interest, together with his other bona fide indebtedness, as set forth in said statement.

Sec. 19. In every case where any person shall neglect or refuse to make out and deliver a statement of his real and personal property, moneys, and credits, or to exhibit the same to the supervisor, as required by this act, it shall be the duty of said supervisor and he is hereby authorized to examine on oath the person so refusing, and any other person or persons who he may have good reason to believe and does believe has knowledge of the amount or value of any property, moneys, or credits owned or held by such person so refusing; and said supervisor shall assess any property, moneys, or credits, owned or held by such person so refusing, at its true cash value, as the same is hereinbefore defined: *Provided*, That if any person shall neglect or refuse to make such statement, or in case any person own-

ing any taxable property in this State, or any money loaned in this State, shall be absent from the township or cannot be found therein by the supervisor of such township, during the time the assessment roll is required by law to be made, leaving no agent known to such supervisor to make the required statement, such supervisor is hereby authorized to set down and assess to such person any amount of personal property he may deem just and proper, subject to reduction on review, upon oath of the party in interest, his agent, or attorney.

Sec. 25. When the supervisor has reviewed and completed the assessment roll, it shall be his duty to attach thereto, signed by him, a certificate, which may be in the following form: "I do hereby certify that I have set down in the above assessment roll, all the real estate in the township of \_\_\_\_\_, liable to be taxed, according to my best information, and that I have estimated the same at what I believe to be the true cash value thereof, and not at the price it would sell for at a forced or auction sale; that the said assessment roll contains a true statement of the aggregate valuation of the taxable personal estate of each and every person named in said roll, and that I have estimated the same at the true cash value, as aforesaid, according to my best information and belief."

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"Earth to earth, and dust to dust."  
Sentence changeless from the first;  
High and low of every race,  
All the living doth embrace;  
All are passing like a dream,  
To oblivion's shoreless stream.

"Earth to earth, and dust to dust,"  
None the living can we trust;  
Monarch in his accepted sway  
And robes of purple cannot stay;  
King, or prince, or priest, he must  
Hear the sentence, "Dust to dust."

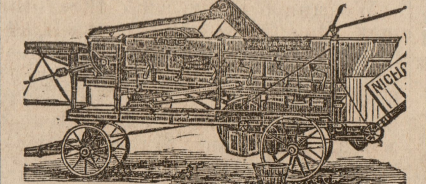
Infant in its mother's arms,  
Fondly watching she its charms—  
Father, mother, sister, son,  
Pass they swiftly, one by one;  
All are passing like a dream  
To oblivion's shoreless stream.

Art beheld the dreadful truth—  
Faded age and fading youth—  
Flying to the gates of morn,  
Sunbeams on her wings were borne;  
Back she joyous flew to earth,  
Tidings brought of countless worth,  
If but mortals would embrace,  
Perish not a form or face.

"Earth to earth, and dust to dust"—  
Come the dreaded sentence must;  
But to memories most dear,  
There is naught that man can rear,  
Monuments of marble stone,  
Rising obelisks alone  
Which fond memory will embrace  
Like the pictured form and face.

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The Sun has been, is, and will continue to be, independent of everybody and everything save the truth and its own conviction of duty. It is the only policy which an honest newspaper need have. That is the policy which has won for this newspaper the confidence and friendship of a wider constituency than has ever been enjoyed by any other American journal.

The Sun is the newspaper of the people. It is not for the rich man against the poor man, or for the poor man against the rich man, but it seeks to do equal justice to all interests in the community. It is not the organ of any person, class, sect, or party, there need be no mystery about its loves and hates. It is for the honest man against the rogues every time. It is for the honest Democrat as against the dishonest Republican, and for the honest Republican as against the dishonest Democrat. It does not take its cue from the utterances of any politician or political organization. It gives its support unreservedly when men or measures are in agreement with the Constitution and with the principles upon which this republic was founded for the people. Whenever the Constitution and constitutional principles are violated—as in the outrageous conspiracy of 1876, in which a man not elected was placed in the President's office, where he still remains—it speaks out for the right. That is the Sun's idea of independence. In this respect there will be no change in its programme for 1879.

The Sun has fairly earned the hearty hatred of racials, frauds, and humbugs of all sorts and sizes. It hopes to hold that hatred not less in the year 1879 than in 1878, 1877, or any year gone by. The Sun is printed for the men and women of to-day. It has both the disposition and the ability to afford its readers the promptest, fullest and most accurate intelligence of whatever in the wide world is worth attention. To this end the resources belonging to well-established posterity will be liberally employed.

The present disappointed condition of parties in this country, and the uncertainty of the future, lend an extraordinary significance to the events of the coming year. To present with accuracy and clearness the exact situation in each of its varying phases, and to expound, according to its well-known methods, the principles that should guide us through laboring, will be an important part of The Sun's work for 1879.

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Our rates of subscription remain unchanged. For the DAILY SUN, a four-page sheet of twenty-eight columns, the price by mail, postpaid, is 55 cents a month, or \$6.50 a year; or, including the Sun by paper, and eight-page sheet of fifty-six columns, the price is 65 cents a month, or \$7.70 a year, postage paid.

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PAIN in the right side, under the edge of the ribs, increases on pressure; sometimes the pain is in the left side; the patient is rarely able to lie on the left side; sometimes the pain is felt under the shoulder blade, and it frequently extends to the top of the shoulder, and is sometimes mistaken for rheumatism in the arm. The stomach is affected with loss of appetite and sickness; the bowels in general are costive, sometimes alternative with lax; the head is troubled with pain, accompanied with a dull, heavy sensation in the back part. There is generally a considerable loss of memory, accompanied with a painful sensation of having left undone something which ought to have been done. A slight, dry cough is sometimes an attendant. The patient complains of weariness and debility; he is easily startled, his feet are cold or burning, and he complains of a prickly sensation of the skin; his spirits are low; and although he is satisfied that exercise would be beneficial to him, yet he can scarcely summon up fortitude enough to try it. In fact, he distrusts every remedy. Several of the above symptoms attend the disease, but cases have occurred where few of them existed, yet examination of the body, after death, has shown the LIVER to have been extensively deranged.

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The genuine are never sugar coated. Every box has a red wax seal on the lid, with the impression DR. McLANE'S LIVER PILLS.

The genuine McLANE'S LIVER PILLS bear the signatures of C. McLANE and FLEMING BROS. on the wrappers.

Insist upon having the genuine DR. C. McLANE'S LIVER PILLS, prepared by Fleming Bros., of Pittsburgh, Pa., the market being full of imitations of the name McLane, spelled differently but with same pronunciation.

Ayer's  
Hair Vigor,  
For restoring Gray Hair to its natural Vitality and Color.

A dressing which is at once agreeable, healthy, and effective for preserving the hair. Faded or gray hair is soon restored to its original color, with the gloss and freshness of youth. Thin hair is thickened, falling hair checked, and baldness often, though not always, cured by its use. Nothing can restore the hair where the follicles are destroyed, or the glands atrophied and decayed. But such as remain can be saved for usefulness by this application. Instead of fouling the hair with a pasty sediment, it will keep it clean and vigorous. Its occasional use will prevent the hair from turning gray or falling off, and consequently prevent baldness. Free from those deleterious substances which make some preparations dangerous, and injurious to the hair, the Vigor can only benefit but not harm it. If wanted merely for a

## HAIR DRESSING,

nothing else can be found so desirable. Containing neither oil nor dye, it does not soil white cambric, and yet lasts long on the hair, giving it a rich, glossy lustre and a grateful perfume.

Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co.,

Practical and Analytical Chemists,  
LOWELL, MASS.



**Local Matters.**

SATURDAY, Jan. 11, 1879.

**YPSILANTI POST OFFICE.**

**MAILS ARRIVE.**

East—9 and 11:30 A. M., 6:30 P. M.  
West—11:30 A. M., and 6 P. M.  
Hillsdale—6 P. M.

**MAILS GO.**

East—10:30 A. M., 5 P. M.  
West—10:30 A. M., 6 P. M.  
Hillsdale—8:15 A. M.

Many if God should make them kings,  
Might not disgrace the crown He gave;  
How few who could with honor fill  
The humbler office of a slave!

I hold him great who, for Love's sake,  
Can give, with steadfast earnest will,  
But he who takes for Love's sweet sake,  
I think I hold more noble still.

Glorious it is to wear a crown  
Of deserved and pure success;  
He who knows how to fail, has won  
A crown whose lustre is not less.  
—Adelaide A. Procter.

—Now that A. Holt is in the county jail for stealing, his wife and five children are thrown on the town for support, and the town has once declined to support them. The poor woman has no money to pay her rent, and none to buy food and fuel.

—The charge made by the *Sentinel*, that the assessors simply copy their old rolls, is shown to be incorrect by the fact that one poor woman in this city is made to pay a semi-annual tax of \$6.11, whereas her taxes for a whole year, on the same property, never before equalled that amount.

—The Light Guard elected the following civil officers at the annual meeting last Wednesday evening: President, Jos. H. Manning; Vice-President, Henry Beard; Secretary, Geo. N. Noyes; Treasurer, T. W. McAndrew; Hall Agent, Sam'l J. Vail; Board of Trustees, G. H. Gilmore, R. C. Hayton, and Henry Beard.

—The Ypsilanti City Band will give a masquerade ball at the Follett House, on Thursday evening, Jan. 23. The band hope, by means of this ball, to so fill their treasury as to be able to give Ypsilanti the best band the city has ever had. It is some time since there has been a fancy dress party in town, and the coming one promises to be in the highest degree enjoyable.

—Ditson & Company, of Boston, have recently published a "System of Piano-Forte Technique," by Wm. Mason; the object of which work is to overcome the variety and repetition of exercises, the carelessness of pupils in regard to the thorough and careful practice so essential to good playing. The book is composed in great part of scales and arpeggio exercises, carried out in various ways, and capable of being multiplied further by an intelligent student. One of its greatest advantages is the habit of mental concentration formed by the rhythmic treatment of mechanical exercises, which also contributes largely to clearness in playing.

—The Mission Circle of the Presbyterian church have again engaged the services of Miss Jessie Couthouli, the young reader, for some evening of the week following the 19th instant. Miss Couthouli's success in impersonations is certainly most assured, and she has the faculty of putting herself behind the character assumed to a marked degree, each recitation of her last performance here being given with evident dramatic talent. Perhaps the most unanimous verdict concerning the entertainment spoken of was the fact that the audience were kept interested during the whole evening, there being no time when their attention was not fully occupied and themselves richly amused. We prophesy a full house for the entertainment when the date and place shall be announced.

A. O. U. W.—Washtenaw Lodge, No. 17, has elected the following officers: M. W., H. R. Scovill; G. F., Martin Cremer; O., E. Washburne, Jr.; Recorder, Frank Joslin; P., Jas. H. McKinstry; Receiver, Wm. Robbins; G., J. H. Whitney; J. W., Warren Whitney; O. W., A. L. Corey; Physician, J. E. Post; Trustee, E. Washburne, Jr.; Representative to Grand Lodge, H. Batchelder.

**SONS OF TEMPERANCE.**—On Friday evening, Jan. 3d, 1879, Ypsilanti Division installed its new officers for the ensuing term, as follows: W. P., Caleb S. Pitkin; W. A., Miss Mary Millsbaugh; R. S., James B. Forsyth; A. R. S., Miss Frances Gorton; F. S., Miss Kittie Ostrander; Treas., C. Goodwin; Con., J. E. Putney; A. Con., Miss Minnie Kimball; Ch., Mrs. J. C. Johnson; I. S., Henry A. Gage; O. S., C. J. Allen; P. W. P., Eugene Laible; Organist, E. W. Grant.

**PARDON ASKED FOR.**—The friends of George Henning are about to make an application to the Governor for a pardon. Henning is now in prison on a charge of manslaughter, for the killing of Nathan E. Rumsey, at Dexter, something over two years ago. He was sent to State prison for four years on a plea of guilty. As the real cause of Rumsey's death seems to be left in doubt, and as in any event the crime was not a flagrant one, and Henning has now been imprisoned over two years, there are strong hopes that the pardon will be granted.

—The following is a copy of a petition circulating in this city. We hope that it may obtain, as it deserves, the signatures of all good citizens:

To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Michigan in Legislature Assembled:  
The undersigned, citizens of the ..... of Ypsilanti, in the county of Washtenaw, in the State of Michigan, believe that the traffic in intoxicating liquors endangers our lives and property; that it is

very destructive of health, happiness, virtue and intelligence of our people, and is the prolific source of an incalculable amount of domestic misery and public immorality and crime. We deem it wrong in principle and policy for government to seek to regulate this business by any system of license or tax, and earnestly entreat you to so legislate that the government of this Commonwealth may wash itself of all complicity with the liquor traffic.

Therefore as in duty bound your petitioners pray:  
First: That you submit to the people a proposition to so amend the Constitution of the State as to interdict the traffic in intoxicating liquors, and render it impossible for the Legislature to legalize the business.  
Second: That you enact a law, at your present session, completely prohibiting the manufacture and sale of all alcoholic liquors to be used for drinking purposes, with adequate penalties for its violation and provisions of its enforcement.

**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.**

**REGULAR MEETING.**

MONDAY EVE., Dec. 30, 1878.

Council met.  
Mayor in the chair.  
Roll called.  
Present—Ald. Kishlar, Robbins, Roys, Cremer, Follmer, Smith, and Hutchinson.  
Reading of minutes dispensed with.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS.**  
From Clerk:—  
That he had received the bond of City Marshal.  
Report accepted and bond approved.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.**  
From Committee on Ways and Means:—  
The claim of Anna M. Van Cleave, recommending that the same be not allowed.  
Also, claim of Lee Yost, for making copy of tax roll, and favoring payment of same at full amount, \$52.00.  
Report accepted.

**CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS.**  
D. W. Thompson, wood lamp posts, etc.....\$29 13  
Lee Yost, copy of tax rolls..... 52 00  
Ordered paid from Contingent Fund.  
Ayes—Ald. Kishlar, Robbins, Roys, Smith, Cremer, and Follmer—6. Nays—Ald. Hutchinson—1.  
A. Gilmore, care of poor..... \$4 50  
Ordered paid from Poor Fund.  
Ayes—Ald. Kishlar, Robbins, Roys, Cremer, Follmer, and Smith—6. Nays—Ald. Hutchinson—1.  
N. G. Kellogg, lighting lamps, December.....\$30 00  
Laid on the table.

**MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.**

By Ald. Cremer:—  
RESOLVED, By the Common Council of the city of Ypsilanti, that our Representative in the State Legislature be requested, at the coming session, to have the City Charter amended in the following respects:  
1st, To have Ward Street Funds in lieu of General or District Street Funds.  
2d, To have the taxes collected annually instead of semi-annually as at present.  
Laid on table for two weeks.

By Ald. Follmer:—  
RESOLVED, That the Marshal be instructed to employ a man to put the city lamps in order, and also to employ a man to light and care for the same at not exceeding \$50 per month.

Ald. Robbins moved to amend by making the price to be paid \$40.

Ald. Hutchinson moved to amend the amendment by inserting \$45 in lieu of \$40.

On motion of Ald. Robbins, tabled.

Ald. Hutchinson tendered his resignation as chairman of the Committee on Gas Lights.

Accepted.

On motion, the Mayor was requested to fill vacancy caused by Ald. Hutchinson's resignation, and he appointed Ald. Robbins.

On motion, Ald. Smith was appointed a member of said Committee in place of Ald. Thayer, who cannot officiate owing to sickness.

On motion of Ald. Cremer, the Resolution of Ald. Follmer, relative to city lights, was taken from the table.

Ald. Robbins moved that the same be again tabled. Carried.

Ayes—Ald. Kishlar, Robbins, Roys, and Smith—4. Nays—Ald. Cremer, Follmer, and Hutchinson—3.

On motion, Council adjourned to meet Monday evening, Jan. 13, 1879, at 7 o'clock.

C. R. WHITMAN,  
Deputy City Clerk.

—Theological students reason that if there be counterfeit money, there must be genuine; so, if there be infidels there must also be Christians. If this be true of money and religion, will not the same rule apply to "put up" medicines? Do not the cheap and worthless nostrums prove that there are genuine and meritorious "put up" medicines? The great popularity of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery has resulted in the manufacture of many shoddy alternatives and tonic remedies, but one after another these have disappeared, the proprietors having found that, no matter how loudly they advertise, success depends upon merit. In South America, as well as in this country, the Discovery is the standard remedy for all scrofulous and eruptive diseases. It acts promptly on the stomach, liver, and blood, toning up, regulating, and purifying the system. It speedily allays all bronchial irritation, and cures the most stubborn cough or cold in half the time required by any other remedy.

**"NOTHING LIKE IT."**

The fact that nearly all the diseases of the Throat and Lungs can be cured by the Great English Cough Remedy is now proved beyond a doubt, and the enormous sale which the Great English Cough Remedy has reached conclusively shows that the public have great faith in this Remedy for Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Bronchitis, &c. Every bottle is guaranteed, and money refunded by Dr. H. Van Tuyl.

**LOCAL AND BUSINESS NOTICES.**

—"Who brayed there?" asked a member of the Canadian House of Commons of the persons who were trying by interruption to silence him. "It was an echo," retorted a voice.

—Messrs. Schemel & Cook, at the depot, are manufacturing that superior brand of cigars known as the "Anchor."

—Notwithstanding the large sales during the holidays, Messrs. Roehm & Wright, of Detroit, have a store filled with elegant silver ware, and with all the most fashionable styles of jewelry.

—Bring Bright Boys to C. S. Wortley & Bro's and have them suited.

All the nobby styles of Caps are to be found at C. S. Wortley & Bro's.

—C. S. Wortley & Bro. employ a first-class cutter, who knows how to make clothes in the latest styles.

Albums, a large assortment. You will save money by getting my prices before purchasing. Fred F. Ingram, opposite depot.

—Have handsome Hats that come from C. S. Wortley & Bro's.

—"How do you make a Maltese cross?" was the question before the institute. And one of the school-marks answered: "Tread on her tail."

If you want Clothes or Hair Brushes, Combs, Toilet Soaps, or Holiday Goods, you will save money and get the bottom prices by calling on Ingram, opp depot. 81

—Boys' Suits and Children's suits at C. S. Wortley & Bro's.

—In spite of flannels, coughs and colds will make a lodgment in the system. But they are not tenants at will. You can dispossess them with *Hale's Honey of Horehound and Tar*, in less time than it takes a sheriff to execute a writ. Sold by all Druggists.  
Pike's Toothache Drops cure in 1 minute.  
Jan.

—A physician's little daughter called upon for a toast, gave: "The health of papa and mamma and all the world. But suddenly corrected the sentiment. "Not all the world, for then papa would have no patients."

Irish Linen note heads at the Commercial office.

A handsome cut glass Bottle given away with every ounce of perfume at Ingram's, opp. depot.

—There never was a larger stock of goods at C. S. Wortley & Bro's.

QUERY: "Why will men smoke common tobacco, when they can buy Marburg Bros.' 'Seal of North Carolina' at the same price?"

Paper of good quality at 5cts a quire and everything else proportionately cheap at Ingram's, opp. depot.

—At a less price than ever before you can buy your clothes at C. S. Wortley & Bro's.

Box Paper from 10c a box upwards at Ingram's, opp. depot.

—A little six-year-old, upon finding a lone and solitary stick of candy in his stocking on Christmas morning, mournfully exclaimed, "Gracious! if I had been born twins, I'd only got half this much!"

Chew Jackson's Best Sweet Navy Tobacco.

—Hats—Caps—Cloths—at C. S. Wortley & Bro's.

—If you have the Asthma, go to our popular druggist Dr. H. Van Tuyl and procure a bottle of the Great English Cough Remedy. It is warranted.

—Children's Cute Clothing at C. S. Wortley & Bro's.

—Three or four doses of Great English Cough Remedy is warranted to relieve the worst case of sore throat you can produce. Sold by H. Van Tuyl.

**YPSILANTI MARKETS.**

Corrected weekly by O. A. AINSWORTH, Commission and Forwarding Merchant.

APPLES, per bbl, 75¢ to \$1.00  
BUCK FLOUR—\$3.00.  
BEANS—60¢ to 90¢.  
BUTTER—14.  
CORN—38¢ to 40¢ per bush.  
CLOVER SEED—\$3.50 per bush.  
CHICKENS—Dressed, 5¢ to 7¢. Live, 4¢.  
EGGS—16.  
HAY—\$8.00 to \$10.00 per ton  
HIDES—5¢.  
HONEY—In cap, 20  
HAMS—8¢ to 9¢.  
LARD—The market stands at 8¢ to 9¢.  
ONIONS—80¢ per bbl.  
OATS, NEW, 20¢ to 25¢.  
PORK—In bbl, \$8.00 to \$8.50  
DRESSED HOGS—\$3.00 to 50¢.  
POTATOES—40¢ to 50¢.  
TIMOTHY SEED—\$1.60  
TURKEYS—Live, 7¢ to 8¢.  
WHEAT, EXTRA—85¢.  
" No. 1—85¢.  
BUCK WHEAT—50¢.

**MARRIED.**

CHEEVER—WARD.—On Thursday, December 26, 1878, at the residence of A. B. Ward, Esq., in the village of Dundee, by the Rev. Mr. Misence, WALTER H. CHEEVER, Principal of the Union School in that place, and CLARA J. WARD.

**DIED.**

HAYTON.—At the residence of Edward Simons, of this city, January 6th, 1879, SARAH, daughter of William H. Hayton, aged 5 months.

SAGE.—In this city, on the 3d inst, SUSAN, wife of Seth Sage, Esq., aged 54 years.

Mrs. Sage, well known by all of our old residents, had lived in this city about forty years. Beloved by all who knew her, she has passed to the home of the blessed, leaving this world of trouble and care. The bereaved family of the deceased have the heart-felt sympathy of our community in their sorrow, and are offered the consolation of a knowledge that all of good in the world to come is her reward. —*Sentinel*.

**Local and Special Notices.**

**WANTED IMMEDIATELY.**—A girl to do the general housework in a family of five. Inquire at the COMMERCIAL office.

**WASHTENAW COUNTY POOR HOUSE.**—Sealed proposals for rendering the medical services needed at the County House, etc., for the year 1879, will be received by the Superintendent up to 10 o'clock A. M. of Tuesday, February 4, 1879. Packages marked "Proposals for Medical Services," may be left at the County House before the day and hour named, or handed to any one of the Superintendents, who reserve the right to reject any or all bids.

Dated, January 8, 1879.  
DAVID WILSET,  
EDWARD DUFFY, Supts.  
D. B. GREENE,

**S.MOKE G. B. F. CIGARS.** Warranted Pure Havana Filler and Binder. The best cigar in the city. Sold only by A. Guild, Tobaccoist, No. 9, Huron Street.

**NOTICE.**—The annual meeting of the Highland Cemetery Association, of the City of Ypsilanti, will be held at the office of the First National Bank, of Ypsilanti, Monday evening, January 13, 1879, at 7 o'clock, at which meeting Trustees for the three years next ensuing will be elected, and such other business as may properly come before the Association.

Ypsilanti, January 4, 1879.  
F. K. KIRKFOED, THOS. NINDE,  
Clerk. President.

**A SUPERIOR ARTICLE** of Glycerine Dressing, warranted not to injure the finest kid, just received by Hewitt & Champion.

**WHY WILL YOU** pay 60cts for Tobacco when you can get the same for 50cts per pound at Guild's. Call and see. 770-773

**A LARGE STOCK** of Ladies' and Misses' Button Arctics and other warm lined goods of new styles at Hewitt & Champion's.

**NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS.** The regular annual meeting of the Stockholders of the First National Bank of Ypsilanti Michigan, for the election of Directors will be held at said Bank in Ypsilanti, on the second Tuesday of January, 1879 (Jan. 14, 1879), between the hours of 10 A. M., and 4 P. M., of said day.  
Dated at Ypsilanti, Mich., Dec. 10, 1878.  
F. P. BOGARDUS,  
Cashier.

**A FINE ASSORTMENT** of Ladies' and Gentlemen's Slippers for the holidays, just received by Hewitt & Champion.

**NOBBY STYLES** of Gentlemen's Fine Shoes. A new stock at Hewitt & Champion's.

**A FACT.**—We keep the largest stock, the best assortment, do the most durable work, and sell at the lowest prices. Call and see for yourselves. Hewitt & Champion.

**POWER, RESONANCE, DURABILITY** evenness of action, found in the Billings' Upright Piano only. Sold by CHAS. E. SAMSON.

**LADIES GIPSEY BUTTON** and Side Lace Boots in kid and goat—a new stock—just received by Hewitt & Champion.

**RICHARD MILLER, TAILOR,** Huron Street, one door north of W. B. Hewitt's residence. Any one wishing work done in my line, will do well to bring their goods and have them cut and made. Work warranted to give satisfaction and prices low. 767

**FIFTEEN BILLINGS' UPRIGHT PIANOS** ordered by CHAS. E. SAMSON.

**MEN'S, BOYS' AND YOUTHS' BOOTS** of superior quality, at very low prices at Hewitt & Champion's.

**THE TUBULAR BAR** places the Billings' Upright Pianos ahead of all others. Sold by CHAS. E. SAMSON.

**IF YOU WANT A STYLISH PAIR OF** Boots or Shoes made, or an old pair repaired at reasonable prices, call on Hewitt & Champion.

**C. S. W. BALDWIN, Dentist,** Rooms over Post Office, Ypsilanti, Mich. Hours 8 to 12 A. M., and 1 to 5 P. M.

**THAT IS SO. WHAT?**  
E. Elliott Cleans and Repairs Clothes better than any one in town. Why just look at these clothes of mine, they look as good as new. Just look in his shop and see for yourself. Bring along those faded garments and have them dyed and made equal to new clothes and save money.  
E. ELLIOTT,  
Norris Block Opp. Depot, Ypsilanti.

**WATCH, CLOCK, AND JEWELRY REPAIRER AND CLEANER.** Satisfaction guaranteed. AT A. H. Haskin's bakery, at the Depot. JOHN BIDDLE. 759

**The Leading Business Houses of Detroit.**

**R. H. FYFE & CO.**  
—FINE—  
**BOOTS AND SHOES**  
101 Woodward Avenue,  
DETROIT, MICH.

**R. W. King & Son,**  
IMPORTERS AND JOBBERS OF  
**CROCKERY,**  
CHINA,  
GLASSWARE,  
LAMPS, ETC.  
103 Woodward Avenue,  
DETROIT, - MICH.

**ABBOT & KETCHUM,**  
DEALERS IN  
**CARPETS AND HOUSE-FURNISHING GOODS.**  
Carpets, Oil Cloths, Linoleum, Matting, Rugs and Mats, Oriental Carpets, Lambrequins, Lace Curtains, Shades, Cornices, Pillows, Mattresses and Upholstery Goods.  
No. 107 WOODWARD AVENUE,  
T. F. ABBOT,  
C. B. KETCHUM. DETROIT, MICH.

**NEWCOMB, ENDICOTT & CO.**  
**DRY GOODS.**  
DETROIT OPERA HOUSE BUILDING  
**CAMPUS MARTIUS,**  
DETROIT.  
O. A. NEWCOMB. CHAS. ENDICOTT. F. D. TAYLOR.

**F. WETMORE & CO,**  
100 Woodward Ave.  
Headquarters for Lamps, Chandeliers, Oil, Etc. Gas Fixtures of all kinds at bargain. Student Lamps of several kinds—St. Germain, Home, Manhattan, Cleveland, Etc. Chandeliers for Churches and Halls a specialty. New designs and novelties in Glass Shades and Chimneys. Consumers can save gas by using our patent check burner. Inquiries by mail promptly answered and cuts of Chandeliers with estimates.  
79

**Geo. Peck & Co.**  
**DRY GOODS!**  
SILKS,  
CLOAKS,  
SHAWLS,  
CASSIMERE,  
CLOAKINGS,  
DRESS GOODS.  
155 and 157 Woodward Avenue,  
DETROIT, - MICH.

**THE "Billings' Upright Grand Pianos,"**

—WITH THEIR NEW—

**PATENT TUBULAR BAR,**

Which adds greatly to the strength of the case and supports the action firmly, are acknowledged by everybody to be far superior to any Piano made, alike in

Power, Resonance of Tone, Durability, Evenness of Action and Beauty.

FIFTEEN OF THESE BEAUTIFUL PIANOS ENGAGED AND STILL THE ORDERS COME IN.

Don't fail to see them before you purchase, at

**CHAS. E. SAMSON'S MUSIC ROOMS.**

An Agent Wanted in this Locality to Supply the Rapid Demand.

Nothing Succeeds Like Success!

The former high priced Machines REDUCED to

**TWENTY DOLLARS**

Thoroughly Warranted and sent to you for

Examination Before You Pay For it.

And no obligation to keep one, if not better than any machine you ever had.

EVERY FAMILY CAN OWN A FIRST-CLASS SEWING MACHINE.

The Old Favorite and Reliable STANDARD

**SEWING MACHINE \$20.**

ACKNOWLEDGES NO SUPERIOR!!

We Can Not Make a Better Machine at Any Price.

THE HIGHEST PREMIUM AWARDED THE STITCH AT THE CENTENNIAL.

A Strictly First-Class Shuttle Double Thread Lock Stitch Machine, more complete in equipments than any other, and combining all the late improvements, with the old and tried qualities for which the

STANDARD IS SO POPULAR.

A Faithful Family Sewing Machine in every sense of the word—that runs smooth and does every description of plain and fancy sewing with ease and certainty—so strong and well made, and so thoroughly tested while in use for years in Thousands of Families, that each Machine that leaves our Factory is warranted for five years, and kept in Order free of charge. Money refunded at once if not perfectly satisfactory. Reduced in price far below all other machines. No extras to pay for. Each Machine is accompanied by a more complete outfit of numerous and useful attachments for all kinds of work (free of any extra charge) than is given with any other Machine at any price. The Standard Machine has more good qualities than those of double the price. Light and easy running, a child can use it. Strong and Durable never out of order. Rapid and certain in Execution. No useless Cogs or Gears to wear out or make a noise. Will last for years. Is ready in a moment, and understood in an hour. Makes the double thread Lock Stitch, alike on both sides of the goods, from cambric to leather, uses a Short, Straight, and Strong Needle, extra long, large, easily threaded Shuttle. With new Automatic Tension. Large Bob bins capable of holding one hundred yards of thread. A Large Strong Machine with great width of arm, giving it many desired qualities, and great capacity for a wide range of work. It is the best machine in Principle and in Point of Construction. Use it once and you will use no other. Active agents wanted in this country to receive orders and deliver Machines. Extra inducements offered Clergymen, Teachers, Business Men, &c. Illustrated Book, samples of work, with price list, &c., free. Safe delivery of goods guaranteed to any part of the world. Address STANDARD SEWING MACHINE CO., BROADWAY and CLINTON PLACE, New York.

**To Our Patrons, A Merry Christmas AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Is what **FRANK SMITH** wishes you all!!

And to prove that there is heart in the wish, look in at his Store filled almost to bursting with goods to carry joy to every household, and get his prices, that are made so low that it is a mutual advantage to purchaser and seller that the trade should be made! He guarantees the

**Turn Over a New Leaf, January 1st, 1879, and Sell for Cash Only.**

No more expense keeping books  
No more expense collecting!  
No more poor accounts!

**BUYING FOR CASH AND SELLING FOR CASH**

Will be Our Motto.  
We shall sell on Smaller Margins than under the Credit System, thereby giving our customers better bargains for their money.

To those who have had credit hitherto, we shall endeavor to make it to your advantage, hereafter, to PAY WHEN YOU BUY. Yours Truly,  
**Parsons Bros.**

Ypsilanti, December 15th, 1877.

to be the best place in the county to invest your money in Books, Autograph and Photograph Albums, Pocket Books, Pocket Knives, Gold Pens, Combs, Brushes, Bohemian Vases, Fancy China, Toys of all kinds, Perfumery, and about 1000 other things! Special attention is called to the stock of Picture Frames! No other so large and varied can be found outside of Detroit and prices are w-a-y down! Bring your pictures early. Extra special attention is called to more than 1000 lbs of fresh Candy, that, for Christmas, will be placed at prices that favor the purchaser entirely. Don't fail to bring your big basket to the Emporium!



## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

### MICHIGAN.

Members of the Legislature are well pleased with the new Capitol.

The thermometer fell from 10 to 18° below zero throughout the State, Thursday night, the 2nd inst.

Michigan ice dealers report that they have never had a finer crop of ice than the one they are now harvesting. It is clear, solid and very thick.

Rumored that W. K. Muir, late general manager of the Canada Southern railway, is to take charge of the Chicago & Lake Huron railroad when it gets out of its present trouble.

The Bronson reform club has reorganized, elected new officers, dug up the tomahawk, and declared a new war on whiskey.

Henry Willis has gone to Washington to lobby for his Michigan ship canal project.

Quite a haul of thieves has been made at Jackson, who have been plundering freight cars at Jackson, and considerable property recovered. Two boys named Charles and James McCaffrey, "Mother" McGregor and niece, Thomas McCune and James Ryan are all in jail for having a hand in the business.

Snow is eight feet deep north of Marcella, Antrim county.

A fire at Schoolcraft Friday morning destroyed several buildings and property valued at \$19,500. The thermometer stood at fifteen degrees below zero, and many who worked at the fire had hands, feet and ears frozen.

Owen McIntee, aged 110 years, died in the town of Lyndon, Washington county, on the 2nd inst. He was born in Ireland in 1768. He took part in the rebellion of 1792, was afterwards arrested and put in jail, for being a rebel. After being released he remained some years in Ireland, when he thought he would try his fortune in the new world. He came to America and after a residence of some years in the East he purchased from the Government a quarter section in the township of Lyndon, on which he located nearly half a century ago. Mr. McIntee never used tobacco in any form. He also enjoyed good health, and was confined to the house only two weeks previous to his death. He was fond of relating incidents that occurred when he was a boy, and was often heard to boast of having voted at 16 Presidential elections. In politics he was a Democrat, and at the November election in 1876 cast his ballot for Tilden.

The fruit is not injured by the late freeze, on the eastern coast of Lake Michigan. At Traverse City the thermometer did not go below zero; at Manistee from the shore to the Allegan one or two degrees below; and at South Haven ten degrees below. Fruit is safe until the thermometer reaches fifteen to twenty below zero.

Saturday morning a passenger coach attached to the show-bound train on the Toledo & Ann Arbor railroad, seven miles south of Ann Arbor, was destroyed by fire.

Donald McTaggart and Edward Sowles were instantly killed on Saturday, near Exar, by a collision on Eldred's logging railroad.

The Saginaw Board of Supervisors, by a vote of 24 to 12, have voted an extra compensation to Judge Tennant of \$1,000.

The Niles Water Works were sold December 30 at sheriff sale to Thos. Gaines, one of the creditors, who was the highest bidder. His bid was \$2,000.

The Port Huron banks have agreed to charge Canada money 1/4 per cent. discount.

A committee of the Jackson County Board of Supervisors has agreed to report in favor of discharging Esther Coffeen from the jail of that county. She was sentenced to State Prison by Judge Holmes, of Grand Rapids, for life, but the warden of the prison refused to receive her.

J. W. Ryan, of Adrian, has submitted to an operation by which a strip of steel, which was imbedded in his eye in 1862, has at last been safely removed and his eye saved. Professor Frothingham, of Ann Arbor did the good deed for him.

Deotoring the poor in Isabella county, and the prisoners in the jail in Jackson county, is being let out to the lowest bidder. Pity the poor.

An incendiary fire at the Detroit depot of the Michigan Central Railroad, Saturday night, did about \$5,000 worth of damage. It was set in three places, and the firemen had a hard night's work and a cold job in subduing it.

Two tramps entered the postoffice and two other places in Buchanan Saturday night and stole a lot of stamps, hardware and cigars. They were arrested and the stolen property recovered.

The State Publishers' Association met at Lansing Tuesday, 32 being present, the largest gathering of the kind ever held. J. E. Scripps read a paper on "How to Make a Newspaper Pay," and Thomas S. Applegate, of the Adrian Times, also presented a paper on "Advertising." The law of libel was discussed at length, and a committee of three was appointed to suggest modifications of the law to prevent malicious prosecutions for publishing news and making truthful comments thereon.

The Weissels block and two adjoining buildings, occupied for clothing, millinery and dry goods stores and a photograph gallery, at St. Louis, were burned Tuesday morning. Loss, \$20,000; buildings and stocks partially insured.

Charlotte is to have a paid fire department. The Governor will not call a special election for the first Congressional District.

### GENERAL NEWS.

The public debt was increased during December by \$1,233,735.

Resumption created no excitement in New York. More gold was deposited in the Treasury than was drawn out. The banks report that their customers do not want gold—they prefer greenbacks. The same experience is reported in Detroit banks.

January 2nd, the subscriptions to the four per cent. loan were \$8,590,150.

The other day a thief entered the Government printing office, and watching his opportunity, took from the safe of the disbursing clerk a package containing \$10,000, intended for paying off employees and for the purchase of material, and made his escape without observation.

Fires: At Farmerville, La., loss \$10,000; at Elgin, Ill., loss \$100,000; at Quincy, Ill., loss \$60,000; at Evanston, Ill., loss \$25,000.

The scenery at Niagara Falls is the finest known for years, an ice bridge having formed between the falls and the railroad suspension bridge. For once people pass back and forth without toll. The fine view in Prospect Park is surpassingly beautiful.

Mrs. Gaines, the famous litigant, is 71 years old, has been engaged in her peculiar warfare for 47 years, and at four different times has suffered physically and mentally from attempts made on her life; but she looks no older than any woman of 40, is as lithe and active as a girl, and has a health which there is not one thread among the old-falls in abundant threads behind her waist. She says she expects to live to be 150.

Caleb Cushing died at Newburyport, Mass., Friday night.

Augusta, Me., January 3.—Alonzo Garcelon was to-day elected Governor, receiving 21 votes to 10 for Joseph L. Smith.

The mercury went to 22 below at Chicago Friday. At Yankton, D. T., 26 below. At Cincinnati 15 below.

By the operations of the Moffatt liquor law the State of Virginia last year received \$110,000 in excess of the receipts from the old system.

The Mint Bureau has turned into the treasury \$575,000 profits accruing to the government from the coinage of standard silver for the past three weeks, after buying silver for coinage and paying for the transportation and allowing for the wasting process of coining. Since the commencement of the coinage of the standard silver dollar the government has profited between the legal tender value and the real value of the bullion which it contains, to the amount of \$1,600,000.

Fires: At Columbus, Ga., loss \$70,000; at St. Louis, Mo., loss \$100,000; at Chatfield, Minn., loss \$12,000; at Osceola, Wis., loss \$12,000.

At an entertainment New Year's night, at the City Hall of Barnesville, Ohio, called the "Feast of Mandomin," upwards of 150 persons were taken violently ill, some miscerant having mixed croton oil with the food.

A squad of 50 revenue men, under Capt. Burdette, has returned from Cincinnati on a raid upon "Moonshiners" in the border counties of Kentucky and Tennessee. They report the destruction of over 50 distilleries, and the capture of a large number of distillers. It is thought that the business is pretty well broken up in this region.

Fires Saturday at Chicago. The \$50,000 block in which is the Post Office. The upper stories were damaged to the amount of \$50,000; and the individual losses were about \$15,000. The only loss to the Post Office is \$15,000 in stamped envelopes. At Buffalo, the Academy of the Holy Angels, loss \$60,000, insurance \$25,000; at Columbus, Ga., the Rankin House, skating rink and 13 stores, loss \$70,000, insurance \$22,000. At Indianapolis, in Centennial block, damage \$5,000. At St. Paris, O., the distillery and flouring mill, loss \$16,000, insured for \$13,500. At Walpole, Mass., insurance \$25,000; at Benning, N. H., his wife perished in the flames. At Hamilton, O., S. Hughes & Co's flouring mills, loss \$18,000. At Hingham Mass., the public library and post office. At Huntington, W. Va., the Avenue Hotel and four other buildings; loss \$12,000.

It is expected that 15,000 Mennonites will arrive in this country from Russia by May next. This is the last year of the Mennonites' exemption from military service.

The Secretary of the Treasury has made another call for U. S. bonds—\$10,000,000 worth of six per cent.

The Credit Mobilier suit has been thrown out of court.

Subscriptions to the four per cent. funding bonds Monday amounted to \$11,003,500.

The coin in the U. S. Treasury is increasing. Tilden will testify in reference to the cipher dispatches.

Matter written with the electric-pen, or with a type-writer, if in the nature of a letter, must pay letter rates in the mails.

A fire at Ashtabula, Ohio, Monday morning, destroyed property worth \$10,000.

Ex-Gov. Broome, who headed the rising in Calula and Michoacan, Mexico, has been killed with 14 of his followers.

### CONGRESS.

Jan. 7.—Congress convened after the holiday session, with barely a quorum present in either House. Nothing of importance was done. In the Senate, a petition of citizens of Alaska, to be attached to the State of Oregon for judicial purposes, was reported upon adversely.

The late elections in France were a crushing blow to the Bonapartists. The majority now is of moderate Republicans.

The Socialist Democrats have lately carried most of their municipal candidates around Leipzig.

A supplement of the official Gazette announces that the plague in Astrakhan, which was abating, has revived with great violence, since the recent thaw.

The Pope is consulting as to the advisability of calling a new Ecumenical Council.

Cold weather, great disasters and more strikes are prevailing in England.

Fifteen hundred railroad men are on a strike near London; five hundred coal builders at Liverpool; five hundred shipwrights and two hundred iron workers at Middleboro; and large bodies of men in Lancashire and Yorkshire.

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The House a committee on the liquor traffic was added to the standing committees.

The following notices of bills were given: To reincorporate Almont; to suppress tramps; to limit the rate of interest to seven per cent; and to regulate practice of medicine and surgery.

The N. Y. Central and Erie railroads were blocked with snow and did not run through trains from Thursday to Tuesday last.

The New York Legislature took possession of the new State House Tuesday.

The Legislatures of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Minnesota, Nevada and Maine met on the 7th inst.

The public debt of Pennsylvania is one and a half millions.

### FOREIGN NEWS.

The centennial of the discovery of the Sandwich Islands by Capt. Cook in 1778, is to be commemorated by the erection of a bronze statue of King Kamehameha, the conqueror and organizer of the Islands.

During practice on the British man-of-war Thunderer, at Ismid, on the gulf of Ismid, Asia Minor, a 38-ton gun burst, killing several men, wounding 40, and destroying the vessel's turret.

A plague has appeared among the Tsyssaks of Astrakhan. The sufferers are isolated. Many doctors have been summoned to their relief. Of 195 persons attacked since the 1st inst. 143 have died.

Gen. Grant had a hearty reception at Dublin.

Another severe snow-storm accompanied with unusual cold is reported in Scotland.

In France, owing to the rapid thaw, the rivers are overflowing their banks and much damage has been done.

A Hazir Pir dispatch says Gen. Roberts, with a large force, has entered the District of Khost, which he intends to occupy to overawe the mountaineers. No opposition is expected.

A correspondent with the Quetta column reports that the Afghans have flooded the country around Candahar and that all the non-combatants are leaving that city.

The Cornish Bank, at Truro, Cornwall, Eng., failed. The bank did a very large business in mining and other commercial enterprises. The bank belongs to Tweedie, Williams & Co. It was established about ten years ago, and has branches at Falmouth, Penryn and Redruth. Further stoppage of Cornish mines is inevitable, and the failure of many private firms must follow. The bank had an authorized issue of £49,000. The depositors of the Cornish Bank amounted to £5,000,000.

Juan Moncasi, who attempted to assassinate the King of Spain on the 25th of October, was hung at Madrid last Saturday.

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### Members of the Legislature.

Dist.	Name.	P. O. Address.	County.
1.	Weir, Jas. D.	Detroit	Wayne.
2.	Palmer, T. W.	Detroit	Wayne.
3.	Duffield, W. W.	Detroit	Wayne.
4.	Childs, J. V.	Washtenaw	Washtenaw.
5.	Conant, H. A.	Monroe	Monroe.
6.	Robbins, R. B.	Adrian	Lenawee.
7.	Hodge, H. C.	Concord	Jackman.
8.	Patterson, J. C.	Marshall	Calhoun.
9.	Hewitt, Alex.	Hillsdale	Hillsdale.
10.	Pendleton, E. W.	Sturgis	St. Joseph.
11.	Brown, E. L.	Schoolcraft	Kalamazoo.
12.	Shedden, J. M.	Cassopolis	Cass.
13.	Chamberlain, W.	Three Oaks	Berrien.
14.	Lewis, N. W.	Ganges	Allegan.
15.	McPeck, J. L.	Grand Ledge	Eaton.
16.	Hooker, John S.	Lansing	Ingham.
17.	Halbert, H.	Powdermill	Livingstone.
18.	Dow, Peter	Pontiac	Oakland.
19.	Billings, S. R.	Flint	Genesee.
20.	Moore, J. B.	Lapeer	Lapeer.
21.	McElroy, C.	St. Clair	St. Clair.
22.	Huston, B. W.	Vassar	Tuscola.
23.	Briggs, Charles	Calumet	Houghton.
24.	Shoemaker, J. P.	Amsterdam	Montcalm.
25.	Hine, Milton B.	Austerlitz	Kent.
26.	Farr, Geo. A.	Grand Haven	Ottawa.
27.	Ambley, W. E.	Pentwater	Oceana.
28.	Cochrane, J. W.	Midland	Midland.
29.	Wright, J. W.	Bay City	Bay.
30.	Beck, George W.	Cheboygan	Cheboygan.
31.	Stephenson, S. M.	Menominee	Menominee.
32.	North, Seth D.	Hancock	Houghton.

Name.	P. O. Address.	County.
Abbott, Wm. L.	Goodland	Lapeer.
Allen, Edward P.	Ypsilanti	Washtenaw.
Baldwin, Charles	Powdermill	Oakland.
Barnes, Orasmus S.	Center	Eaton.
Bennett, S. W.	Fairfield	Lenawee.
Bedtely, Jacob	Goodrich	Genesee.
Blackman, H. E.	Allegan	Allegan.
Bowen, Orro A.	Lansing	Ingham.
Brady, James J.	Battle Creek	Calhoun.
Briggs, Charles	Calumet	Houghton.
Bradfield, T. P.	Copper Falls	Ontonagon.
Brown, Samuel B.	Ransom	Hillsdale.
Burton, Porter	Hastings	Barry.
Campbell, James H.	Marshall	Calhoun.
Cutcher, Otis E. M.	Avon	Iosco.
Donnelly, John C.	Detroit	Wayne.
Eaton, Crosby	South Haven	Allegan.
Estabrook, John S.	E. Saginaw	Saginaw.
Francis, Wm. H.	Frankfort	Benzie.
Ferguson, James E.	Bangor	Van Buren.
Gardner, James E.	Detroit	Wayne.
Gobel, August	Detroit	Wayne.
Gould, James	Jackson	Jackman.
Granger, George H.	Unionville	Tuscola.
Greene, Daniel C.	Romeo	Macomb.
Griffes, Clinton G.	Negannec	Marquette.
Hopkins, George H.	Pinckney	Livingstone.
Hall, Alfred D.	Tecumseh	Lenawee.
Hamilton, John	Constantine	St. Joseph.
Henderson, H. P.	Mason	Ingham.
Hill, E. Parker	Deatur	Van Buren.
Holt, Henry H.	Muskegon	Muskegon.
Hopkins, George H.	Detroit	Wayne.
Hopkins, Samuel W.	Pleasant	Oakland.
Jackson, Andrew	St. Ste. Marie	Chippewa.
Johnson, Samuel	Dowagiac	Cass.
Knight, Nathan	Bay City	Bay.
Kuhn, Joseph	Detroit	Wayne.
Kurtz, F. W. A.	Springwells	Wayne.
Lewis, Amos	Shelby	Oakland.
Lewis, Amos	Shelby	Oakland.
Littell, Wm. E.	Orion	Oakland.
Ludington, J. Jr.	Verona Mills	Huron.
May, Henry F.	Cadillac	Wexford.
McAllister, Geo. C.	Gull Lake	Barry.
McComick, E. F.	Grand Rapids	West.
McGurk, James R.	Cape	St. Clair.
McNabb, John W.	Newago	Newago.
Miller, Lucien B.	Lassalle	Monroe.
Moore, Otho	Sturgis	St. Joseph.
Moore, Geo. W.	Detroit	Wayne.
Mosby, Charles	Hillsdale	Hillsdale.
Mounton, Luthv	Grand Rapids	Kent.
Noah, Frank A.	Detroit	Wayne.
Noeker, Frank	Westphalia	Clinton.
Oliver, John F.	Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo.
Pailthorpe, Chas. J.	Petoskey	Emmett.
Parker, Walter H.	Reed City	Oscoda.
Parsons, Johnathan	Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo.
Phelps, Fitch	Big Rapids	Mecosta.
Powers, Wm. H.	Grand Rapids	Kent.
Pray, George	Woods Corn	Isola.
Probert, Wm.	Pleasanton	Manistee.
Raymond, M. H.	Grand Lake	Oshtemo.
Reed, Rasselas	Perry	Shiawassee.
Rich, John T.	Elba	Lapeer.
Robertson, George	Albion	Calhoun.
Robison, John J.	Sharon	Washtenaw.
Ross, John D.	Delta	Delta.
Sayer, Andrew	W. Saginaw	Saginaw.
Sharts, Derwin W.	Owosso	Shiawassee.
Shattuck, Willard	Shattuckville	Saginaw.
Sherwood, Alonzo	New Troy	Berrien.
Sterns, Benton R.	Gallien	Berrien.
Stanchfield, O. O.	Ludington	Mason.
Stevens, Andrew R.	Greenville	Montcalm.
Strong, John B.	St. Edwards	Monroe.
Strong, A. B.	Jackson	Jackman.
Thomson, John S.	Port Sanilac	Sanilac.
Thorpe, Calvin J.	Sherwood	Branch.
Turnbull, James D.	Alpena	Alpen



Continued from second page.

the line, and be prosecuted rapidly until the railroad was in full operation.

The Board afforded every facility within its power to aid in the enterprise, and appointed Hon. John J. Bagley and Hiram B. Crosby trustees to receive and disburse the avails of any pledges or securities, and to build the railroad and lands to obtain means for the building thereof. The prospect for the construction of the road seemed hopeful, but since, notwithstanding repeated assurances have been given that the work would be immediately commenced, not a blow has been struck, and the Board being now satisfied that the parties concerned have not the funds requisite to build it, and that there is no reasonable probability of their being able to obtain moneys for that purpose, have taken steps to declare the contract forfeited, and to place the land grant so that it may be available to any other parties who may contract to build the road.

The construction of this railroad is an urgent necessity, demanded not only to facilitate trade with the rich mining regions of the Upper Peninsula, but to secure to our people a fair share of the commerce of that immense grain producing section, penetrated for hundreds of miles by the Northern Pacific Railroad.

It is well understood that the great line of railroad is yet to be built eastward from Duluth to the boundary of Michigan, on the South shore of Lake Superior. Now, with a short extension of the line projected from Mackinac to Marquette, we shall be able to tap it, and direct a large portion of its traffic and trade to this State, and thus open the way for a direct intercourse with the vast extent of country it is built to traverse.

Communication between the Upper and Lower Peninsula is now carried on for three fourths of the year by a circuitous route through three other States, diverting the traffic of an important section of the State elsewhere, and making it tributary to other interests.

The construction of the Mackinac and Marquette Railroad would, in a great measure restore to us this trade, and bring the two Peninsulas into nearer and more intimate relations.

But important as the demand is for this road, it is apparent that withholding the lands from market in certain localities is retarding settlement and preventing the development of the country. Portions of the grant are heavily timbered and other parts of it are said to be valuable for agricultural and mineral purposes, and public interest seem to require that in some sections they should not be kept from sale and settlement, while at the same time there is no reasonable prospect that the purpose of the grant will be accomplished. I believe it wise policy to devote the lands sacredly to the object contemplated, and I would not divert them to other purposes. It, however, it shall be found necessary to open any of them to sale, I recommend that it be upon condition that they be sold for cash, and that the proceeds be paid into the treasury and set apart as a fund to be applied in aid of the enterprise for which they were appropriated.

SAVINGS BANKS.

I renew the recommendation repeatedly made by my immediate predecessors for some funds to be incorporated in character to those in the national banking law for the more careful examination and scrutiny of the savings banks of this State. These banks hold large amounts of money, and so far as I know have been prudently managed. But they are the offspring of the Legislature, and in creating them it falls on its duty if it neglects to guard the rights of depositors, many of whom are laborers and persons of moderate means.

The rates of interest have been steadily decreasing for some time past. An abundance of money can now be obtained, on good security, at 7 and 8 per cent. Real property in this State has no uncertain value, and the probabilities are that hereafter money will never command as high rates of interest as it has heretofore. As a result of this state of circumstances there seems to be a demand for the repeal of the provisions authorizing contracts to be made at rates as high as 10 per cent. With this accomplished, the uniform rate throughout the State would be 7 per cent.

INSURANCE.

The business of insurance, connected as it is with nearly all our commercial and financial transactions, has become one of great importance.

The number of companies now authorized to transact business in Michigan is 195. Of these there are 120 life insurance companies, with assets amounting to over \$900,000, and risks in force to the amount of \$11,641,000; two stock fire companies, with an aggregate of \$22,000,000 at risk; and 47 farmers' mutual fire companies, embracing 57,000 members and risks in force to the amount of \$107,000,000.

The stock fire companies of other States (102) and foreign governments (15) now authorized number 177, and during the year 1877 wrote risks here to the amount of over \$136,000,000.

From the year 1870 to 1877 both inclusive, the aggregate of business done in this State by stock fire insurance companies is as follows:

Risks written.....	\$1,210,261,955
Premiums received.....	17,073,744
Losses incurred.....	9,847,689

During the same period these companies have paid into the State Treasury about \$500,000 in specific taxes.

In the year 1877 there were 10 life insurance companies of other States doing business in this State. This number has been reduced to 28. No considerable loss has fallen upon our people by reason of the failure of life insurance companies, except in the case of the Continental of New York. The number of life insurance policies now in force upon the lives of citizens of this State is about 22,000, representing insurance to the amount of \$42,000,000. During the eight years last past, covering the period of the existence of the Insurance Bureau, a large number of both life and fire insurance companies have been sent out of this State or refused admittance on account of inability to comply fully with our laws. The subsequent failure of many of these concerns has demonstrated that the State standard of solvency cannot be too rigidly maintained.

During the past two years no failure has occurred among companies authorized in this State. They have suffered somewhat in depression of business and in shrinkage of values, in common with all other financial institutions, but there appears no good reason for doubting their ability to fulfill their contracts.

The laws relating to life, fire and marine insurance are believed to be adequate for the protection of the people and the companies, and need no radical changes. It might be well to enact a law to more effectually punish insurance by unauthorized agents and companies. At the last session of the Legislature an act was passed intending to regulate the business of plate glass insurance by requiring such companies under the same requirements as life companies. The act is quite indefinite and defective in many particulars, and I recommend its repeal and the passage of a more specific law regulating this kind of insurance.

FIRE.

Kindred to the subject of insurance is

the great destruction of property annually by fire. Some idea of this may be obtained from the fact that the fire insurance companies alone have paid out over \$10,000,000 for losses in Michigan within the last eight years.

According to the most reliable data accessible, there were, during the year 1877, in this country and Canada, 10,745 fires, or one in nearly every 30 minutes. The value of property destroyed by these fires amounted to nearly one hundred millions of dollars. Of that sum \$48,000,000 was paid by insurance companies, and the remainder of the loss was sustained by property owners. The entire sum, however, was a total loss to the wealth of the country. The State of Michigan suffered losses by fire in 1877 of over \$3,000,000, about one-half of which fell upon the insurance companies.

The balance, \$1,500,000, may fairly be considered as the net loss to this State each year by fire. Many of these fires may be attributed directly to the entire absence or nonenforcement of building laws and directly to defective construction. After all probable innocent causes are eliminated, the criminal records affirm that arson is not an infrequent agent in the burning of property. This class of fires may be set to hide crime, gratify revenge, or to force a sale to the insurance companies of over-insured property. This subject is an important one in view of the desirability of saving the wealth of the State and suppressing crime.

Within the last eight years, it appears from the reports of the several Prosecuting Attorneys to the Attorney General, that the number of persons proceeded against in this State for various offenses was 47,824. Of these 313 were charged with the crime of arson, but only 42 were convicted and punished. It would seem that the laws were ample for the punishment of this crime, and it is not apparent that there is any lack of zeal on the part of prosecuting officers when proper complaints are made. I suggest whether the requirement of some examination and report by some local officers into the cause of the fire, extent of the loss, and amount of insurance, would not furnish valuable information, and at the same time tend to constitute a protection against such calamities.

LIBRARY.

The bound and unbound books on the shelves of the library number about 40,000 volumes. Of these some \$5,000 have been obtained within the past two years through purchase, exchange or donation. The law department contains the largest and best collection of law books in the State, having the American reports complete and the English nearly so. The librarian suggests an appropriation of \$5,000 for the next two years for the purchase of books.

An appropriation should be somewhat larger than heretofore, and that provision should be made for additional help, as the present location will necessitate it. I would also suggest the propriety of having the librarian keep an account of lost or damaged books, as well as having an inventory taken yearly.

CHARITABLE AND HEALTH BOARDS.

The Board for the Supervision of Charitable Institutions has steadily pursued its work, and I refer you to its report for many excellent suggestions in regard to our system of charities and correction.

The reports of the Board of Health have attracted attention and contain valuable information in regard to the prevention of disease. It is to be regretted that great delay occurs in the preparation and publication of the vital statistics. It would seem that they lose much of their value when brought out years after they are taken.

THE RAILROAD STRIKE AND THE MILITARY.

In July, 1877, a spirit of violence and disorder was manifested in some sections of the country, which resulted in serious disturbance, with the destruction of many lives and millions of dollars' worth of property. Combinations were formed, railroad depots, warehouses and shops seized, freight and passenger trains compelled to stop running, and a large part of the carrying business of the country for the time being suspended.

I think the military power of this State a similar danger was threatening the peace and good order of this State, I deemed it my duty to take prompt and energetic measures to meet such emergency should it arise. I accordingly ordered out the whole military force of the State to be encamped where they might rapidly be called into service in case of need. To this call the troops promptly responded and the three regiments were quickly in the field ready for active duty. On the 26th day of July a portion of hands in the employ of the Michigan Central Railway Company at the city of Jackson struck, and compelling others to abandon work with them, proceeded to prevent all trains running over such railway to or from said city. On being advised of this action, the officers of the railway immediately appealed to me, demanding the protection of the State against this unlawful and violent interference with the company's property. Deeming it my duty to use the military power only as a last resort in aid of the civil authorities when their efforts to restore order had proved powerless, I at once placed myself in communication with the Hon. James O'Donnell, mayor of the city, requesting him to keep me advised of the situation, and assuring him that I would direct the military to promptly and firmly support the civil authorities in maintaining peace and the supremacy of the laws. I further issued a proclamation enjoining all persons to refrain from improperly or violently molesting or interfering with the property of others, and requiring local executive officers to be active and vigilant in their respective localities for the maintenance of the public peace.

I was gratified in a short time to be assured by the Mayor of Jackson that the civil authorities, aided by the citizens of the place, were doing all in their power to quiet the disturbance and provide for the passage of trains, with a fair prospect that such result would be speedily attained without resort to the use of military force. I was subsequently advised that the parties engaged in the unlawful proceedings had wholly relinquished their designs, and would no longer hinder the corporation from the regular use of its railway. The trouble was ended, fortunately, without the destruction of a dollar's worth of property or the loss of life. In view of the exhibited state of feeling that then prevailed among railroad operatives all over the country consequent upon a reduction of wages, and of the fearful outbreaks that had taken place elsewhere, the situation was one of unusual gravity, and the danger imminent. A single ill-judged move might have resulted in most fearful consequences. That we escaped a great disaster is in my judgment largely due to the excellent course pursued by the authorities and citizens of Jackson, to the prudent measures taken by the railroad officials to prevent a collision with the strikers, as well as to the near presence of the military giving assurance that the full power of the State would be employed if necessary to prevent violence and maintain order. It is also creditable to the workmen who engaged in the strike that they speedily took counsel of wisdom

and abandoned their inconsiderate and unlawful proceedings. The military merit my thanks for the alacrity with which they responded to my call as well as for their excellent bearing and good conduct while on duty. Experience in this emergency demonstrates that we must rely chiefly upon our State military force to suppress riots or tumults arising in our midst.

The policy of the general government seems to be to discourage the employment of federal troops in such cases until it is apparent that the State alone is unable to overcome the disturbance.

In the outbreak referred to, if we had been without a State force, and had been obliged to wait until a formal application could have been made on the President and responded to with federal troops, the strike would undoubtedly have assumed much greater proportions. The United States mail, of which there was a large quantity on the delayed trains, would have been long delayed; while the criminal and vicious, who seem to have made such disturbances an occasion for pillage and plunder, would have had greater opportunities to enable them to do damage.

While not prepared to advise an increase of the military force, I do recommend the adoption of measures to add to its efficiency. A step in this direction has already been taken by the military board in exchanging the fire-arms heretofore used for the latest pattern of Sharp's breech-loading rifles, with which all of the regiments are now equipped.

This should be supplemented by the purchase of haversacks, blankets and overcoats to be stored with the Quartermaster-General, and furnished to the troops, from time to time, for use when required by the demands of the service.

Companies should be obliged to have enrolled the maximum number of able-bodied men, as there are always some who cannot do duty at all; they should have officers of experience, hold regular meetings for drill, and be subject to frequent inspection.

With well-organized regiments of this character, supported by the superior Gatling gun recently procured of the General Government on the amount standing to the credit of this State payable in arms, we may utilize our State military so that we shall have an efficient force always at command to assist the civil authorities in suppressing outbreaks and maintaining order.

The expense for the transportation, subsistence, and service of the troops thus called out during the strike amounted in the aggregate to \$25,209.65. The money in the military fund owing to the diversion of much of it by the Legislature in other directions was insufficient to meet these demands; consequently a considerable portion of the expense incurred, including the payment of officers and men, had to be deferred. Through the courtesy of the Auditor General and State Treasurer, the military board were permitted to realize an advance on the military fund and apply the same to the transportation of the troops, they were enabled to pay off the troops and discharge such of their indebtedness as could not well be delayed. The whole sum of the expense now outstanding and unpaid is \$1,752.42.

For some time past it seems to have been the policy of the Legislature to treat the military fund as a treasury for portions of it to objects other than the legitimate expense of maintaining a military force for active duty. A portion of the fund is now devoted to supporting, at Harper's Hospital and the Asylum at Kalamazoo, infirm and insane soldiers enlisted in the Union army in this State during the war of the Rebellion; while another portion is reserved, under a recent act of legislation, to pay claims of non-commissioned officers and musicians of the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Regiments of Michigan infantry for services at the camp of instruction at Fort Wayne in 1861. If we are to maintain an efficient military force, it is plain that the funds appropriated for these purposes must not be diverted to other channels. The subject of changing the law so that the means of such fund shall not be as largely absorbed for purposes not contemplated by the original appropriation, is respectfully suggested for your favorable consideration.

DEPARTMENT CLERKS.

I deem it my duty to call your attention to the utter want of uniformity in the system regulating the employment of clerks in the several departments of the State government. The laws applicable to some of the State offices limit the number of clerks that may be employed therein, in others the assent of the executive or some board is requisite to an increase of clerical force, while in others the chief of the bureau acts wholly upon his own discretion and employs as many as he sees fit to. The position is a desirable one to many persons and is eagerly sought. Since the law then has been rested, tried and acquitted, I further found the accounts in an unsatisfactory condition, and the superintendent, from his own showing, a defaulter to the amount of \$877 31, to recover which sum, proceedings are now pending against him and his bail. This condition of affairs is a disgrace to the State, and the superintendent of the canal from the control and management of its finances, and to create for that purpose an officer known as Collector of Tolls. The change has proved a desirable one, as the duties of the Superintendent in the immediate supervision of the canal demand his whole attention, while the accounts in the respective offices prove a check upon each other. In connection with his annual report of 1877, the Collector, William Chandler, has prepared and published an interesting and valuable history of the canal.

The projection and construction of this canal is entirely due to the sagacity and exertions of the early settlers of Michigan. They knew that the extensive coast of Lake Superior possessed mineral and other treasures of great value, and with almost prophetic vision they seemed to realize the importance of the immense commerce and trade which has since been developed in this region. Through default, delays and dissensions they steadily persevered in urging the enterprise until they were effective in securing its commencement and completion. It would most fittingly crown their achievement if this important channel, opening complete water communication between the greatest of inland lakes, and the commercial and social life of the State, were made forever free to the passage of all vessels navigating these waters. If this were accomplished, and reciprocal facilities afforded us by the Dominion of Canada for transportation through the Welland Canal, the entire passage from the great lakes to the ocean would be untrammelled by tolls, and the commercial and social relations of prosperous communities speaking the same language and having many interests in common, improved and strengthened.

THE LICENSE LAW.

The whole amount of taxes assessed throughout the State under the liquor tax law for the year 1877 was \$420,160 18. Of this amount \$387,338 89 was collected and \$32,821 29 remains uncollected. Complete returns have not yet been made to the Auditor General for the past year, and consequently I cannot at the present showing therefor. It will be seen that quite a large percentage of the tax is unpaid and lost. This is in some respects due to officers neglecting to promptly press collection, as well as to the fact that some parties have been en-

abled to escape payment through the local courts by reason of some technical defects in the assessments. If this law is to remain, it should be so amended as to provide the payment of the tax shall be a condition precedent to the right to sell at all, with a penalty imposed for any sale in violation of such provision. It is unequal and unjust, among the parties selling, to permit one to escape a tax that the other is obliged to pay. I am advised that the law has had the effect to somewhat reduce the number of places where liquor is sold.

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With the small salary affixed to the office the Governor should not be expected to come here and provide himself with a home. The State should furnish a residence commensurate with the character of the capitol, in which the Executive should live during his term of office. I recommend that the block of lots upon which the old capitol stands be subdivided and with the buildings thereon be sold by the Commissioner of the Land Office, upon terms to be fixed by the Governor, State Treasurer, and himself, and that a portion of the proceeds sufficient for the purpose be applied to the erection of a residence for the Governor. I bespeak this not for myself but for my successors.

CONCLUSION.

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CHARLES M. CROSSWELL.

The sales during the year 1878, at the Auditor General's and county treasurers' offices, taken together, amounted to \$98,421, showing an increase of sales in 1878, as compared with 1877, of \$46,723 38.

It will be seen that the State has acquired a large amount of lands of this character, and that they are constantly being added to. Accumulations have occurred in former years, and methods of relief have been devised by the Legislature. It is very important to the interests of the State that some provision be made for the disposition of these lands.

The number of acres of land held by the State September 30, 1878, was 2,737,338.21. There has been sold during the two years past 302,29 81 acres. There has been collected in cash and notes on account of trespasses on public lands \$8,854 95, at an expense of \$5,363 62.

BONDS OF CERTAIN LOCALITIES.

It has been brought to my knowledge that in some instances localities issuing bonds have failed to keep a record of the same, and that confusion has resulted therefrom. In some States all local bonds are required to be registered with the designated State officer before the bonds are delivered. This proceeding is said to give them better standing and to thus facilitate their sale.

FEES OF OFFICERS.

It is complained that officers who are compensated wholly or partly by fees are, in many instances, paid exorbitant rates and that frequently their charges are excessive and above the limit prescribed by law.

It is also alleged that criminal proceedings for trivial offenses are sometimes instituted and carried on even to imprisonment more to enable officers to obtain fees than to subserve the ends of justice. While every official should have a fair allowance for his services, it is neither just nor proper that extravagant perquisites should be given to those whose employment is merely clerical, requiring neither extraordinary skill, learning, or ability. The subject is worthy of your careful inquiry.

ANTIETAM NATIONAL CEMETERY.

The State of Maryland now holds the title to the Antietam National Cemetery, as trustee for the several States which contributed toward its establishment. The trustees have income, but are indebted, and by act of Congress of March 2, 1877, the Secretary of War is authorized to pay the same when the legal title to the property shall be transferred to and vested in the United States.

This State is one of the parties interested, and as provision is made by the General Government for the proper care of its cemeteries, I recommend that you assent to the transfer, and will heretofore submit a bill for that purpose, prepared by the War Department.

ST. MARY'S FALLS SHIP CANAL.

The 23d day of June last marks a quarter of a century since ground was broken for the construction of the St. Mary's Falls Ship Canal. The tonnage passing through it has increased from 106,293 tons in 1855 to 1,439,215 tons in 1877, and 1,697,136 tons in 1878.

Its gross yearly revenues during the same time have multiplied by ten, being \$44,351 43 in 1877, and \$49,437 in 1878. More than 5,000 vessels, many of them of large tonnage, have passed its locks in the two seasons referred to, making an average passage of one boat every two hours and ten minutes during the time of navigation. The General Government is now building additional locks for the purpose of enlarging and increasing the capacity of the canal, and such progress is being made that the work promises to be fully completed within the next two years. The Legislature of 1869, by joint resolution, authorized the Board of Control to transfer the canal to the United States on the payment of all outstanding indebtedness incurred by the State in the construction or management thereof. The indebtedness of the canal, which the State treasury is pledged to pay, is \$46,000, and the amount standing to its credit on the books of the Treasurer is \$74,532 12. The canal debt is thus fully provided for, and will be extinguished as rapidly as it falls due, and before, if the bonds can be purchased. Its financial condition, therefore, is such that it may at any time be transferred to the United States. A number of necessary repairs and excellent improvements have been made by the present superintendent, John Spaulding, and an additional new set of gates have been purchased and placed by direction of the board. Further improvements are now being made, and the probabilities are that, owing to decayed sills and damaged piers, the expenditure for this purpose will somewhat increase during the next two years.

On coming into office I found the clerk of the canal had absconded charged with the embezzlement of \$1,114 77 of the canal funds. Since then he has been arrested, tried and acquitted. I further found the accounts in an unsatisfactory condition, and the superintendent, from his own showing, a defaulter to the amount of \$877 31, to recover which sum, proceedings are now pending against him and his bail. This condition of affairs is a disgrace to the State, and the superintendent of the canal from the control and management of its finances, and to create for that purpose an officer known as Collector of Tolls. The change has proved a desirable one, as the duties of the Superintendent in the immediate supervision of the canal demand his whole attention, while the accounts in the respective offices prove a check upon each other. In connection with his annual report of 1877, the Collector, William Chandler, has prepared and published an interesting and valuable history of the canal.

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LANSING.

A Stirring Week at the State Capital--Meeting and Organization of the Legislature.

From Our Own Correspondent.

LANSING, January 3, 1879.

This has been a week of stirring events long to be remembered at the State capital. The sun shone brightly all New Year's Day, and the city was crowded with people assembled to witness a scene not likely to be repeated here again for many generations—the formal acceptance and dedication of a new capitol. The new building is not as costly or imposing as some others, but for solidity and general adaptability to the purposes for which it was built, it is a model State capitol, and, considering the six years of its construction and the hundreds of laborers constantly employed upon it, the fact that it has been attended by no accident and is now handed over to the State, completed and furnished and all paid for, is scarcely paralleled in the history of similar enterprises. Had it been undertaken, say by some of the New York rings, the \$1,500,000, which more than finished it, would not have sufficed to lay the foundation.

Tuesday evening the new building was brilliantly lighted from dome to basement, forming a picturesque and magnificent spectacle for miles around. At 7 o'clock Wednesday morning the stars and stripes were hoisted on the north end by Gen. Partridge and on the south end Col. McCreery, and there they will remain till the close of the session. Gen. Partridge says he has helped to hoist the national flag in warmer places, and I can easily believe it, for while he was climbing up to that elevated roof the mercury was climbing into the basement. A steady stream of visitors set in toward the capitol early in the morning, and all the State officers, from Governor down, received New Year's callers by the score and hundred. The passageways and stairways leading to Representative Hall, ample as they are, were packed long before the hour for opening the doors, and many were unable to get within hearing distance after the doors were opened.

The ceremonies were very simple, and the addresses plain and practical, as became the occasion. There was a marked absence of anything like spread-eagleism and the stinging after-effect so often and unpleasantly noticeable at public dedications. Bishop Gillespie opened the exercises with a brief prayer expressing gratitude for the happy completion of the work, and invoking the divine blessing upon all who shall hereafter assemble in it. The Hon. Alpheus Felch, of Ann Arbor, the oldest ex-Governor of the State now living, contrasted the Michigan of to-day with that over which he presided 33 years ago, and congratulated the people of the State on their general prosperity and their fostering care over educational and charitable institutions. He was followed by ex-Governors Greenly, Blair, Baldwin and Bagley in spirited addresses, given at length elsewhere in your columns, and hence, only alluded to here.

The Hon. E. O. Grosvenor then read the report of the Building Commissioners from the time of their appointment, 1872, to the present year. The board had undergone no change since its organization, and all the members were present. In their behalf Mr. Grosvenor tendered the Governor the new Capitol with all its appurtenances, and laid down the great trust imposed upon the commissioners. Governor Crosswell replied in a few appropriate remarks; the benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Mr. Prudens, and the exercises were at an end. It would have been gratifying to many of the audience if the architect, Mr. Myers,

and the principal contractors had appeared among the other celebrities on the platform, but if present they did not make themselves conspicuous. The first official act in the new hall was the administering of the oath of office to the Governor and Lieut. Governor, which was impressively done by Chief Justice Campbell immediately after the opening prayer by Bishop Gillespie.

From 8 o'clock till 10 in the evening came the Governor's reception in his elegant suit of rooms in the new building. It was a most numerous and attended and pleasantly conducted affair throughout. The number of distinguished visitors from all parts of the State was very large, while the Langsights seem to have turned out en masse. For over two hours a steady stream of men and women passed into one door of the reception room and out at another, while the approach to the door was blocked up with people awaiting admission. It was undoubtedly the largest reception ever given by a Governor of Michigan.

At noon on New Year's day, as required by law, the new Senate met in the Senate Chamber and was called to order by Lt. Governor Sessions, while the Representatives met in Representative Hall and were called to order by the Hon. Daniel L. Crossman, Clerk of the last House. Except this formal meeting and the administering of the oath of office to members, but little business was transacted. Lt. Governor Sessions on opening the Senate delivered a pointed little speech in which he made this significant reference to lobbyists: "Our recent legislation has been comparatively free from jobbery, yet laws have been multiplied with too little consideration and care. Those who have had private or local interests, and have been here to attend to them, have had more consideration than the quiet workers at home who work to take care of themselves, to build up the State and bear its burdens." Any one familiar with the course of legislation here must admit the truth of this remark and must wish the Lt. Governor or success in his efforts to check the abuses. The familiar faces of well known members of the Third House are already met with in all parts of the new Capitol, and the number of private axes to be ground on the public grindstone is evidently as great as ever.

The Senate elected Edwin S. Hoskins, of Bellevue, as its Secretary, and George L. Perkins, Sergeant-at-Arms. The House re-elected the Hon. John T. Rich, of Lapeer, Speaker, and Mr. Crossman, Clerk, and elected the Hon. E. P. Allen, of Ypsilanti, Speaker pro tem. The subordinate officers in both Houses have been generally filled by persons who have heretofore held the same offices and are familiar with their respective duties. A large proportion of the members of each House have also been members of former Legislatures, and their experience must tend to materially shorten the session by hastening the dispatch of business, both on the floor and in the committee rooms.

Yesterday the two Houses met in joint convention and listened to the reading of the Governor's Message, and soon after adjourned till next Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock, to give the presiding officers an opportunity to make up the standing committees, the most difficult and important task of the session. Upon the whole the 30th Michigan Legislature starts off under very favorable auspices.

W. J. G.



